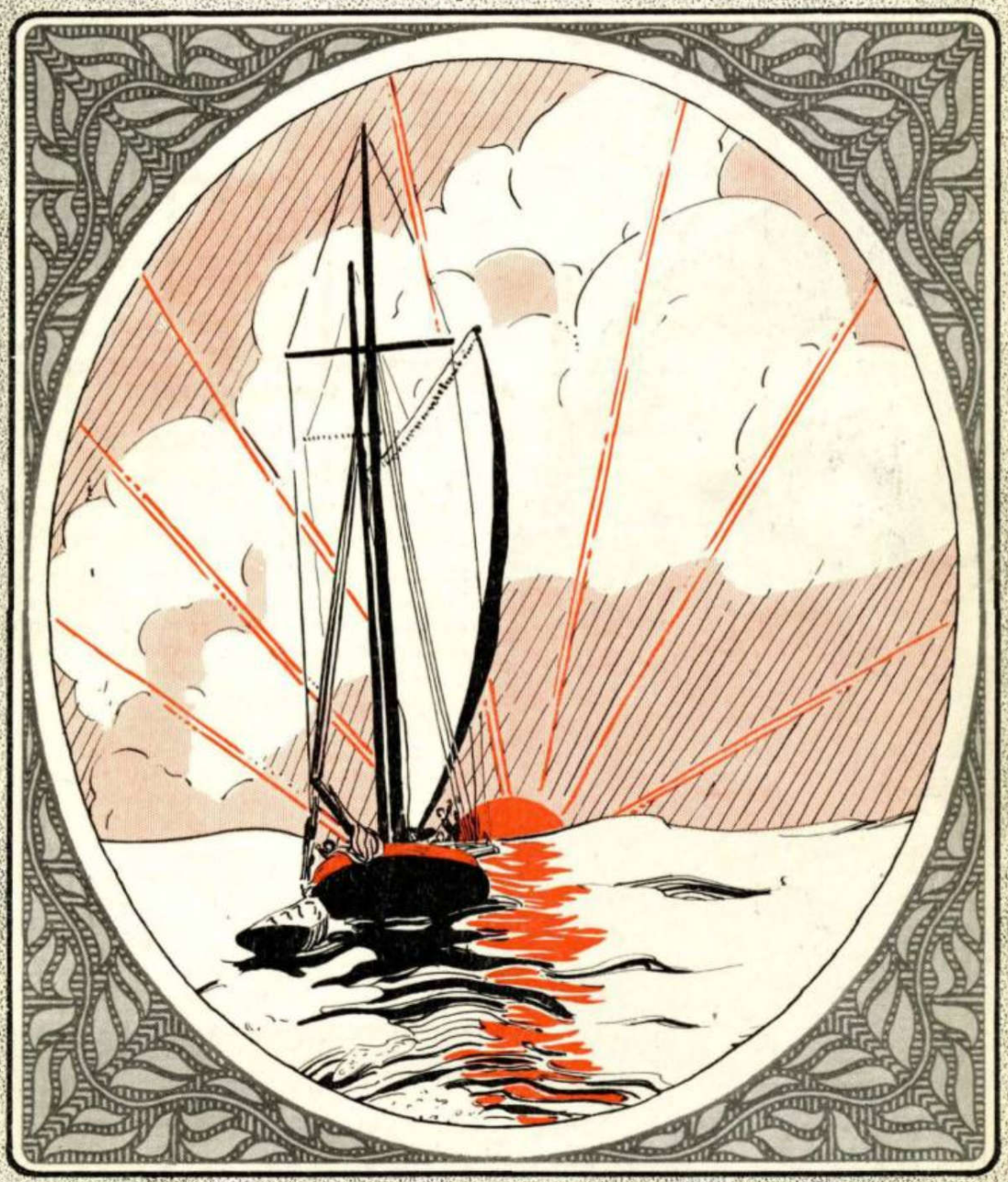
VOL. VI MARCH 1926 NO. 2

The Beaver

A Journal of Progress



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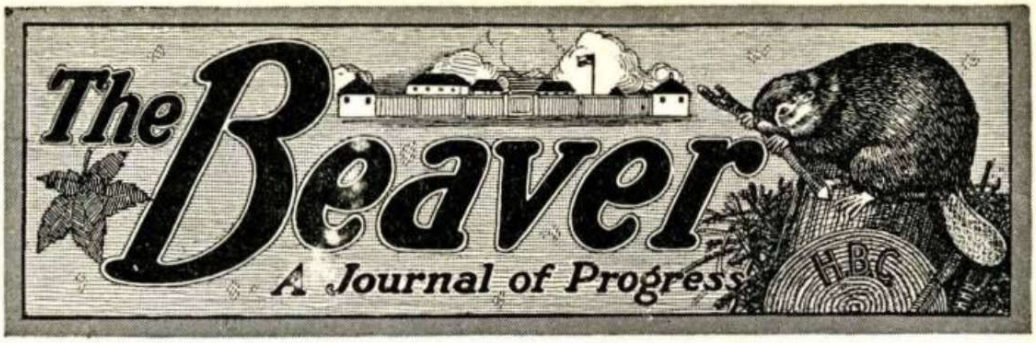

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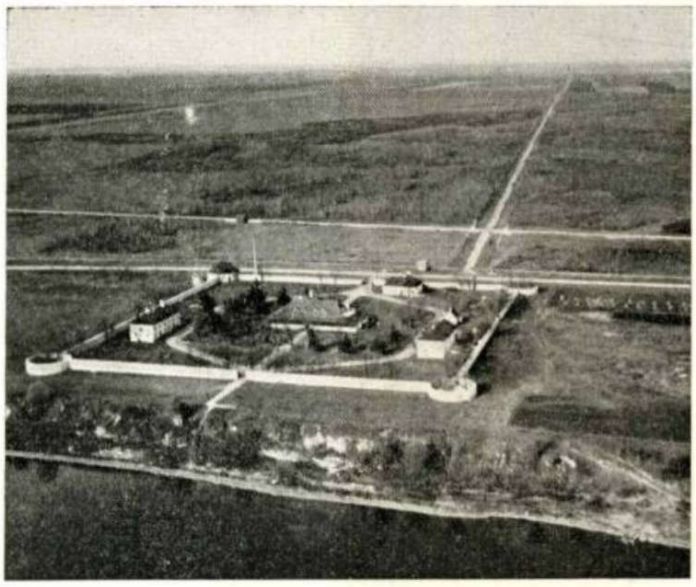
Lower Fort Garry

HERE is an aerial photograph taken from one of the planes engaged in mapping operations for the Topographical Survey, Department of Interior, and reproduced by the courtesy of the Royal Canadian Air Force, Ottawa.



It shows Lower Fort Garry, known as the Stone Fort, erected 1831-9. It is the only remaining complete example of the old stone forts erected by the Hudson's Bay Company, which at one time were numerous throughout the West.

This fort is situated eighteen miles north of Winnipeg, on the west bank of the Red river. It is now accessible by road, water and electric railway. It is at present under lease to the Winnipeg Motor Country Club, but tourists are allowed to visit the fort at any time during the day.

Our New Winnipeg Store

No. 2—By T. F. REITH, Winnipeg

AN interesting feature of the location of our new Winnipeg store is that it comprises land which came to the Company by grant of charter from King Charles the Second some two hundred and fifty-six years ago, and later formed a portion of the Company's Fort Garry reserve when the province of Manitoba was created in 1870.

Old Colony creek, marking the western bounds of the reserve, crossed the Portage trail at this spot to empty into the Assiniboine. In place of the old creek, there will shortly be seen the broad new approach to Manitoba's legislative buildings. This will enter Portage Avenue just to the west of the store. Here also will be located a cenotaph to Winnipeg's sons who laid down their lives in the Great War, 1914-1918.

Plans are developing rapidly to the advantage of local industry and labour. Practically all the material for the structure will be produced in Manitoba.

The excavation is almost completed. This necessitated the removal of about one hundred thousand cubic yards of earth, all handled by local labour and at times employing four hundred men on the general excavation, the digging of the caissons and in teaming material from the site. The caissons have all been concreted and rapid headway is being made with the retaining walls. These are of concrete twenty-one inches wide.

One million board feet of form lumber to be used will be of northern spruce, cut and dressed in the Winnipeg district, a considerable portion of it being finished in the city and all of it a Manitoba product. Forty thousand cubic yards of gravel, sand and stone for the concrete aggregate will come from within fifty miles of Winnipeg. Sixty thousand barrels of cement will be manufactured by the Canada Cement Company at Tuxedo, near Winnipeg. About three thousand five hundred tons of reinforcing steel will be rolled by the Manitoba Rolling Mills of Selkirk, and this mill will also manufacture the ingots from which these bars will be made, the plant operating its own furnaces for the work. The reinforced concrete framework will be one hundred percent a Manitoba product.

About six hundred men will be employed during the spring on the erection of the frame, and probably a similar number at the different plants preparing the materials. At present there are three hundred and fifty men at work on the foundations.

One hundred and fifty thousand cubic feet of Tyndall stone will be used for facing the building. This stone is quarried and cut twenty-five miles northeast of this city, at Tyndall, Manitoba. The Hudson's Bay Company's store at Vancouver, now being remodelled and enlarged, will also use Tyndall stone from Manitoba. Approximately one million common bricks will be used on our new store, all made in this district.

All this will be the means of providing a very large additional payroll to Winnipeg and Manitoba during the remainder of the winter and the coming summer.

A Factor's Advice to His Son

By THE RED LAIRD

Come, listen to me and I'll give you, son,
Some advice that is good and true;
So ponder the words of it, one by one,
For I never would lie to you.
If you'd manage a post in the north country
Trading for furs with the Swampy Cree
Then brave and strong you will have to be
To work for the H.B.C.

At times, on the trip you will sail by lake,
With the wind and the waves at play,
Or through dense forest your trail will make
Its wearisome, crooked way,
Or down some gorge, where the rapids roar
And all lies white on the far off shore,
You will travel these, and a great lot more
When you work for the H.B.C.

With hunger you'll sometimes camp on trail
And you'll fight him if you would win;
You must be strong if you would prevail;
Must tighten your belt and grin.
'Tis the man who laughs when the trail is vile
That's the only man who is well worth while;
You must be good for the long last mile
When you work for the H.B.C.

No use to kick if the going is bad
Or the grub is running low;
Have courage, and you'll win through, my lad,
As others did long ago.
There's Kelsey, and Hendry and Thompson too,
In the days of yore, with their red-shirt crew;
These are examples of men for you,
The men of the H.B.C.

Birch Bark Records

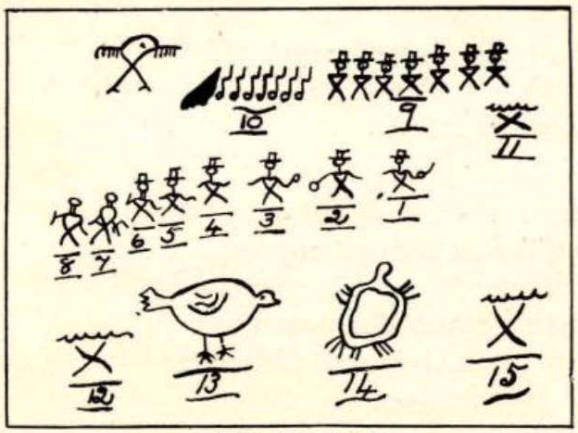
By DR. JOHN MACLEAN

EVER since the white man came in contact with the Indians of North America, it has been known that the different tribes, though ignorant of the speech of one another, had some method of communication. By means of a language of signs which was understood by all, they were able to carry on a conversation, and when the distance was too great for them to read the signs by the hands, they resorted to the smoke of a fire, various motions on horseback, the uses of a blanket, and flashes of sunlight with a small mirror. When they desired to send written messages, the primitive method, before the native languages were reduced to writing, was by means of picture writing. This system is still in use by tribes living in lodges made of dressed hides.

When the Blackfeet and other Indians on the plains were compelled, through the extinction of the buffalo, to use canvas or cotton for their lodges, they still kept up the custom of painting on the outside the exploits of the owner of the respective lodge.

Those who dwelt in the forests or on the shores of lakes and rivers discovered centuries ago that the inner bark of the birch tree was suitable for making records, and from time immemorial this material has been used to this end by the Indians from the Atlantic to the Pacific coasts. Sometimes when passing along forest trails or sailing in their birch-bark canoes on the river they have made drawings on a bit of birch bark and hoisted it upon a pole for the purpose of conveying information to other Indians who would pass that way.

The illustration of picture writing on birch bark will show the native method of writing by signs and symbols. This letter on a bit of birch bark was seen by a party of explorers who had with them two Indian guides. The letter was stuck on a pole, which inclined in the direction that the party was travelling, and below the scroll of bark were three hacks in the pole to show the length of the journey they had undertaken.



A Birch Bark Letter

Looking at the numbers below each of the figures on the letter we are able to translate this curious record. No. 1 represents a soldier in command of the party, and he holds a sword, which shows he was an officer. No. 2 represents the secretary of the party, who is seen holding a book. No. 3 is the geologist, who is holding a hammer. Nos. 4 and 5 are attaches or helpers.

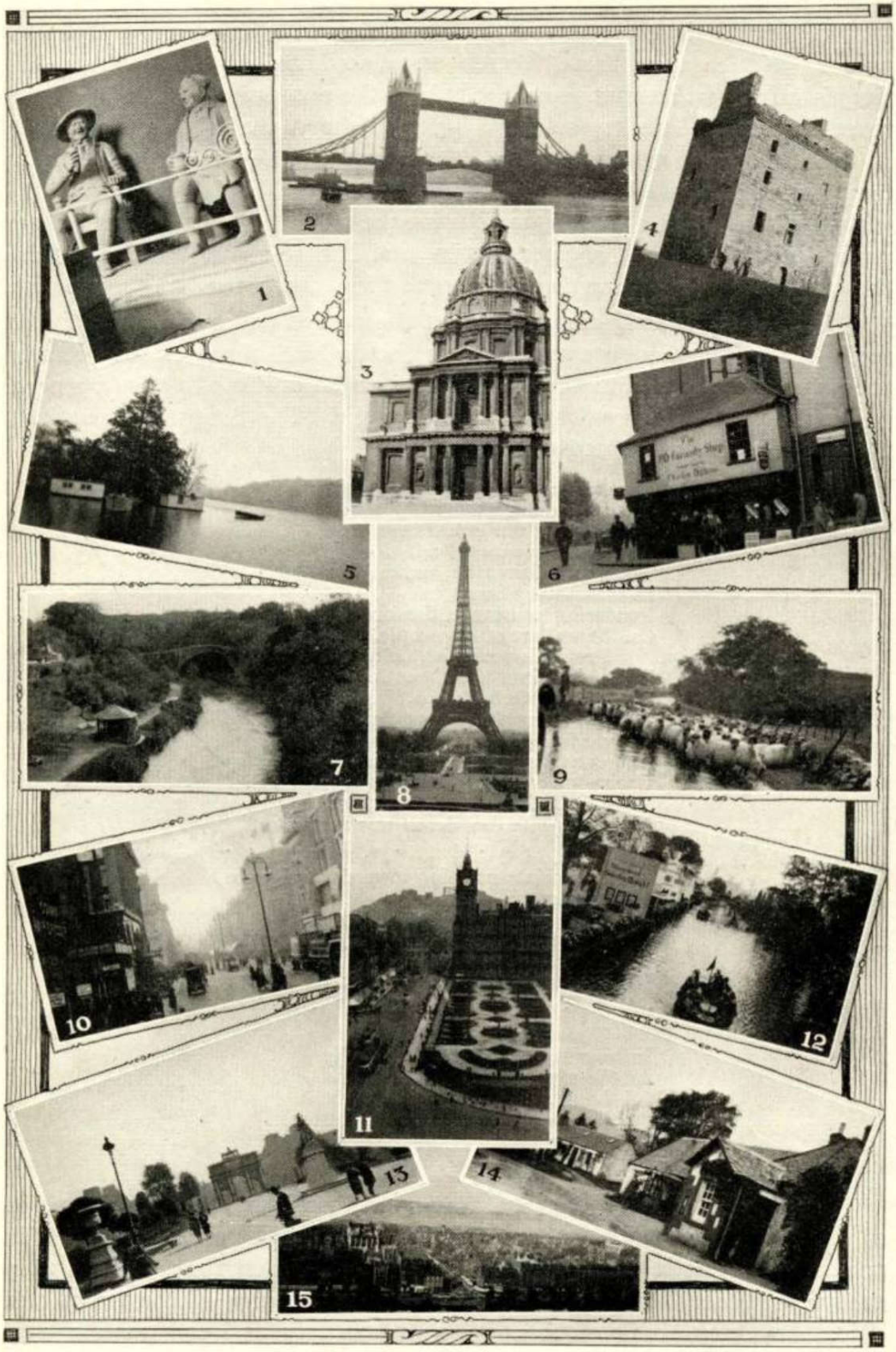
No. 6 is the interpreter. Nos. 7 and 8 are the two native Ojibway guides. Notice that these figures have no hats, as the Indians distinguished the white men from the red by the possession of a hat. No. 9 represents seven infantry soldiers. No. 10 shows that they were armed, as each of them had a gun. No. 11 shows that they dined together, as they had a separate fire. No. 12 shows that the Indian guides ate together, as they had a fire separate from the others. No. 13 represents a prairie chicken; No. 14 a green tortise, and No. 15 shows that these were the total of the preceding day's chase, as they are eaten at a single fire.

The picture writing common to all the native tribes was the childish mode of putting thoughts and words on some kind of material to convey them to other folks, and though it seems crude, it served a wise purpose.

In the part dealing with picture writing in "The Song of Hiawatha," the origin of the art is explained:

"Face to face we speak together,
But we cannot speak when absent,
Cannot send our voices from us
To the friends that dwell afar off."
Thus, said Hiawatha, walking
In the solitary forest,
Pondering, musing in the forest,
On the welfare of his people.
From his pouch he took his colours,
Took his paints of different colours,
On the smooth bark of a birch tree
Painted many shapes and figures—
Wonderful and mystic figures—
And each figure had a meaning,
Each some word or thought suggested.
Life and death he drew as circles,
Life was white, but death was darkness:
. . . . . .
Footprints pointing towards a wigwam
Were a sign of invitation,
Were a sign of guests assembling;
Bloody hands with palms uplifted
Were a symbol of destruction,
Were a hostile sign and symbol.
. . . . . .
Thus it was that Hiawatha
In his wisdom, taught the people,
All the mysteries of painting,
All the art of picture-writing,
On the smooth bark of the birch tree,
On the white skin of the reindeer,
On the grave-posts of the village.

These relics of a bygone age are few indeed, but the folks possessed of a poetic vision may catch a glimpse of swarthy men and women in ancient garb sitting by the camp fires in the olden time, and as they gaze upon these bark records hidden in the museums of the towns and cities they may think of the artists and writers as living men of real passions, whose names and notable deeds are forgotten. But all is not lost, for beyond the ranges there is something, and farther north on the trails outside the borders of civilization, the birch-bark letter guides the traveller toward the distant post, or haven of rest, after a weary day.



1, Tam O'Shanter and Souter Johnnie, Ayr. 2, Tower Bridge, London. 3, St. Paul's, London. 4, Law Castle, Ayrshire. 5, Loch Lomond. 6, Old Curiosity Shop, London. 7, Brig O'Doon. 8, Eiffel Tower, Paris. 9, Sheep in Scottish Highlands. 10, Oxford Circus, London. 11, Princes Street, Edinburgh, from Scott's Monument. 12, Wembley Exhibition. 13, Arc de Triomphe, Paris. 14, Highland Hamlet, Kilmahog. 15, Edinburgh from Castle.

Photographs by R. Watson

Seems Like a Dream

By ROBERT WATSON

THIRTY-THREE days in which to see again the old homeland and a little bit of France, after eighteen years' absence, meant an itinerary that would have to be kept to. But these proved thirty-three days with only three wet ones, so that helped a little.

After saying "How do you do!" to Glasgow, Scotland, I rushed off to see a football match between the Rangers and Celtic at Parkhead. I had always promised myself that. I am sorry I was too early to take in a pantomime, for then my cup would have been full and running over.

Of course, I paid a social call on the old steamship company for whom I used to work for seven shillings a week. I found five of the old staff still on the same jobs that I left them at some eighteen years before.

I met old chums of schoolboy days who had prospered, gaining wealth and even titles; I met others who were still contented in the same old rut; and, there were some I did not meet—I had been too long away.

I made hurried visits to Edinburgh, Ayr, Loch Lomond; up the Western Highlands by auto, passing through Bannockburn, Stirling, Callender, Dunblane, Pass of Lennie, Stratheyre, Braes of Balwhidder, Lochearn Head, Loch Liebnig, Glenogle, Killin, Crianlarich, Dalmelly, Pass of Brander, Loch Awe, Port Sonnochan, Inverary, Loch Fyne, Rest-and-be-Thankful, Arrochar, Tarbert, and back via Loch Lomond.

What a trip! What bewildering beauty and rugged grandeur! Purple mountains, sombre lochs, mists, wild deer, highland cattle, sheep and sunshine! What reminders of the days of Rob Roy, hunted covenanters and old clan feuds! What a turning back of the clock it was to stop the bairns coming home from school to ask them questions just for the pleasure of hearing them answer in unadulterated Doric!

After that, London, with a charm all its very own, where every street-turn opens up an old chapter in history, where every day spent makes one long for two days more to wander in and out and round about the Houses of Parliament, St. Paul's, the British Museum, National Galleries, the Tower, London Bridge, Thames Embankment, Westminster Abbey, Guy's Hospital, the Zoo, the Southwark and Blackfriars districts (memories of Dickens and Shakespeare!), the new Hudson's Bay buildings with their marvellous fur warehouse and delightfully friendly colleagues, the Canadian Building, Trafalgar Square, the Strand, Piccadilly; the restaurants, the theatres; and the London bobbies with the warm Scots accent, who do with their hands what the New York policemen do with high towers, signal boxes and wires, what Paris does with mounted police and swords—and the London bobby still has time to tell you where you want to get to and the favourite for the next horse race.

Give me London! New York, with its Fifth Avenue and great White Way, its tinsel and tawdry, its overhead-underground, its skyscrapers,

may have it for hotels but she pales beside the solid grandeur and historical profusion of the greatest city of the world. London! where in one day I met and talked with Israel Zangwill, the Jewish playwright and author, who is now getting frail in body, though still vigorous in mind; St. John Adcock, critic, editor of the *Bookman*, and colleague of the late Sir William Robertson Nichol on the *British Weekly*; Silas Hocking, the Victorian novelist, hawk-nosed, keen eyed, bearded like Santa Claus and gay in a pepper-and-salt suit and a briar pipe; the Hon. John Burns, comfortable and active, still playing his hobbies, billiards and books; Fred Rymer, of the house of Sampson Low & Company, known to everybody who buys books wholesale or attends the National Liberal Club.

I seem to have a proclivity for the old-established houses: The Hudson's Bay Company, 256 years young, and Sampson Low, 147 years.

After London, a whirlwind trip via Southampton and Havre to Paris (the beautiful, modern, cleanly, monumental, mercurial city of surface gaiety), Tuileries Gardens, the Louvre with its "Mona Lisa," Arc de Triomphe, Eiffel Tower, Napoleon's Tomb, the Casino de Paris. And it isn't true that nearly everyone speaks English in Paris. I stopped the traffic on Pont Neuf bridge trying to explain that I wished a two-hours boat ride up the Seine, and after all I had to use my own good French, "Une bateau, sur l'eau, deux heures, savvy!" to turn the trick.

It took two little French toy gendarmes to clear the bridge afterwards, but we got our boat ride. Ah, those little steamboats! where sweethearts bill and coo right under your very nose and never say "Pardon, monsieur!" And the tiny wharves! where they kiss each other and almost make you feel that you shouldn't be there.

Each time we lost our way, we just hailed a taxi-cab, drove back to our hotel and made a fresh start. Taxis at two francs a throw! which to a Canadian in these days of low exchange looks like, and really is, ten cents. We found it cheaper to ride in them than to walk.

Then there were the lavish department stores, with their obliging staffs who, if they couldn't talk *Canadian*, were willing to try, and insisted that whatever we looked at was *tres chic* or *tres jolie*.

As for their restaurants, everything was nice but their raw fish and their puddingy, pink ice cream.

Later, more days in good old London, and Rugby; then Kenilworth and Tamworth with their grand old castles and real lady ghosts with genuine clanking chains and chesty sighs. Liverpool, Annan, and back North, with hardly time for folks to say "Hullo!" and "When do you go back?" with no more than time to give old friends an evening's talk on "Canada" before the C.P.R. *Metagama* tooted her tooter at Princes Dock, handkerchiefs waved, and bonnie Scotland quietly withdrew into an enveloping curtain of mists, like a dream departing or a dissolving view; and Canada loomed up saying, "Come on! Back to work!"

And I rubbed my eyes to find myself in my bed in Winnipeg, 7.30 in the morning and time to get up.

Before the White Man Came

By J. V. TURLEY, Manowan Post

THE Manowans are very fond of telling stories of their prowess against the Iroquois. Here is one of their favourites. One summer evening, an old woman and a little girl were setting a net on Lake Manowan. The tribe was camped under a low cliff to one side of a long narrow point which runs out into the lake. The girl, glancing idly around, was suddenly struck with terror when she noticed a great number of savage faces peering over the cliff onto the camp below. The old woman looked quickly over the camp and sized up the situation in an instant. "Keep looking at the net," she said. "They will not attack before dark, so long as they think we have not seen them." So, finishing their work without undue haste, they paddled back to camp.

In this Manowan tribe was a clever conjuror. When he heard the news, he ordered some of the men to pretend to be busy dragging up driftwood from the beach, but not on any account to look above the camp. The raiders, realizing that a daylight fight would mean a hard one and not wishing to be seen, withdrew from the edge of the cliff, enabling the people below to make their preparations in turn without being seen by the raiders. Quickly the tents were struck and carried with the rest of their possessions to a spot opposite the end of the point.

After dark, the women and children were sent to a safe place, and the conjuror ordered all the tents to be set up as one long tent along the centre of the point. This done, a babitch line was strung from the end of the tent to a tree near the cliff wall. This was their signal cord. A pull on the line meant that the enemy was coming. (The legend says that a little bird would sing and the cord would carry its notes to the tent.) The conjuror kept watch near the cliff. At last the signal came.

Every man tumbled out and lay down outside, leaving a good space between the tent and himself. Presently, the Iroquois came marching along two abreast until they reached the tent. Then each pair separated; passing along one on each side until they were all stationed around the tent. They were equipped with flint-lock guns.

Every man took his place and pointed his gun down toward the inside of the tent. At a signal from their leader, they fired. As they did so, up jumped the Manowan men, their bows and arrows ready for action. The flint locks of the Iroquois were of course useless until they were reloaded, so that the Manowan men, with their arrows and spears, were able to slaughter them in a very short time. Many of the Iroquois took to the water, but they were unable to make good their escape.

At last, only two Iroquois were left alive. These were saved for torture. One was tied to a tree, then burned to death. The other had his thumbs cut off and was given a paddle and canoe so that he could take news of the defeat to his people.

Rowland's Ghost

By H. J. MOBERLY, Duck Lake, Saskatchewan

DURING the winter of 1854-55, I was in charge of the Blackfoot post (Rocky Mountain House). My second was an Orkney man named William Rowland, a quiet, sober, steady man, who had been promoted from the ranks to the position of a post master.

A little before Christmas I left for Edmonton to get some extra supplies. I made an arrangement with Rowland to meet him on a certain day where the road from Edmonton joined the road to the Sarsu camp. I left Edmonton in time to meet Rowland, but before getting to Gull Lake a bad blizzard came up and we were delayed for a day and a half. Seeing that the loaded horses could not get there on time, I took a saddle horse and rode ahead. On getting to the crossing, I saw no fresh tracks, but across the plain I fancied I saw a man on a grey horse waving something to me. As he was close to a small bluff of poplars, I thought he and others were camped there, so paid no more attention to him. But when I arrived, there was no trace of men or horses, which made me feel very anxious to know what had happened to keep Rowland from meeting me, as we were liable at any time to be raided by war parties. I rode on as fast as I could to the post, and when I got there I found a band of Blood Indians had come in, thus preventing Rowland from leaving.

Again, about the end of March I went out to the Sarsu camp. At that time most of the snow was gone. I was riding ahead of the brigade when I came to the same crossing and saw apparently the same apparition. I put my horse at full gallop, determined to make sure. I got close enough to recognize Rowland on an old grey horse he had owned, but which had been shot by someone during the previous fall. I kept my eyes steadily on it, until I came to a lot of badger holes. When I looked up again it was gone.

One evening later, the conversation happened to turn to spooks. I then told Rowland of seeing him on the old grey horse. He told me he had seen a lot of things himself during the winter.

Now, this post of ours was kept up during the winter only. That spring I got a letter from the chief factor, Wm. Sinclair, telling me to have the post accounts at Edmonton on a certain date. So I took a light boat and started ahead. As I was saying good-bye to Rowland, he remarked, "I don't think you will see me at Edmonton." I thought maybe he intended to leave for the British Columbia gold fields, so I said, "Tell me straight if you mean it, for in that case I will not leave the brigade." His answer was that I should have known him better and that he would do his best. But he had been too much alone during winter. "Oh," I answered, "if that is all, I am off."

Four days after I got to Edmonton one boat came ahead, fully manned, bringing the body of poor Rowland and his broken-hearted wife. He

had evidently been holding the steering oar in his right hand and had taken his gun up by the muzzle to shoot some small animal that was swimming along the shore. Just as the gun was close to his neck, in some way the trigger caught and the whole charge went through his brain. He fell dead across his wife, who had been sitting sewing in the stern sheet just below him.

Before starting, without saying anything to his wife, he had made his will and arranged all his affairs, and was apparently ready for the end. It came on the last lap of the trip. Strange, wasn't it?

A Competition for All Employees

How many are there in the Hudson's Bay Company's service who, while feeling themselves not quite capable of writing a full-page article for *The Beaver*, have at times given vent to some short, original pithy piece of good advice? have had some wise, original thought on a specific subject in which they were interested? have felt that they had an original idea that might be worked out for the good of themselves and their fellows?

We invite all members of the Hudson's Bay staffs to express themselves in not more than 100 words. Here is your opportunity—any subject, any thought, any idea, so long as it is original.

We should like to publish two pages of such in June issue of *The Beaver*, and we offer three prizes, $5.00, $3.00, $1.50, for what we consider the three best received. Prizes will not be awarded unless there is a fair interest taken in the competition by employees. The judges' decisions will be final and the competition closes May 10th, 1926. Mark your envelopes "Original" and address to Editor *The Beaver*, Hudson's Bay Company, Main Street, Winnipeg.

Honour Roll

Several strong appeals have been made for corrections and additions to our honour roll—the most recent list appeared in December issue of *The Beaver*.

We require the initials of one man—Sullivan.

Our list is intended to contain only the names of those men who actually left the employment of the Hudson's Bay Company to serve and did serve overseas.

All interested in our honour roll are asked to go over the list carefully and to advise us promptly of any inaccuracies.—*The Editor.*

No man is worth more than three dollars a day, from his neck down. —*P. T. Barnum.*

The Story of Briar Pipes

Arranged by ALEX. THOMPSON, Winnipeg Wholesale

THERE are many people who still imagine that pipes are made from the briar, or wild rose tree, which is common to our British countrysides; but briar, or bruyere as it is properly termed, is the root of a bush which grows in the countries of the Mediterranean.

Bruyere is selected for the manufacture of pipes because it is one of the hardest of woods and at the same time one of the most absorbent. Briar takes up the nicotine and prevents it from entering the mouth.

The finest briar originally came from Calabria; but that supply is exhausted, so the best now comes from Corsica and Tuscany, while inferior grades are found in Greece, Asia Minor, Albania, Morocco and Algeria. The bush never attains a higher growth than twelve feet, and it takes nearly a hundred years for the root to grow to the size suitable for pipes. It is to be found chiefly on rocky mountain slopes.

The roots are cut into blocks of various sizes and shapes, and these are boiled for twenty-four hours in a huge cauldron.

When the blocks reach the factory they are dried in specially heated chambers through which currents of air are circulated, care being taken to maintain an even temperature. In from three to six months the blocks are ready for further treatment.

They are first handled by the preparer, who removes a slice all round the surface. They then pass to the machines, which turn the top of the bowl, both inside and out, then the stem, and last of all cut away most of the rough wood. The bowls are now ready for the final touch—hand-finishing—which is perhaps the most important of the entire process. The sorter next passes the bowls under his keen eyes and a selection is made. This highly skilled workman sits at his bench under a powerful electric light. Hundreds of bowls pass through his hands in an hour. The faultless bowls are now ready to be finished and polished.

The acrid taste of a new pipe is mainly due to unseasoned wood, but is also the result of oil and varnish sometimes used to give a smart appearance. Many pipes are finished nowadays without either oil or varnish.

So long as the bowl of the pipe is kept free from "fur" and so long as the bore of the pipe is regularly scraped, a briar should keep on absorbing nicotine until its strong, juicy taste warns the smoker that it is time to lay it aside until it dries. A wise smoker usually owns two or more pipes.

Quick puffing develops a fierce heat that will ruin any briar bowl. Get the habit of smoking slowly. You will find it far more enjoyable.

Do not maltreat your pipe by filling it with brandy, whisky, beer, mouldy cheese or Eau-de-Cologne for the purpose of seasoning it. These clog the pores of the wood and prevent absorption of nicotine.

Respect your pipe. Instead of knocking it on your heel to rid it of burnt tobacco, use a pipe reamer for that purpose.

March, First Day of Spring

Arranged by F. S. GARNER, Vancouver

IN England, March is regarded as the first month of spring. He is Nature's old forester, going through the woods and dotting the trees with green to mark out the spots where the future leaves are to be hung. The sun throws a golden glory over the eastern hills, as the village clock strikes six, gilding the hands and the figures that were scarcely visible two hours later a few weeks ago.

Spencer describes March in a seven-line verse as follows:

> Sturdy March, with brows full sternly bent,
> And armed strongly, rode upon a ram,
> The same which over Hellespontus swam,
> Yet in his hand a spade he also bent
> And in a bag all sorts of seeds, of same
> Which on the earth he strewed as he went,
> And filled her womb with fruitful hope of nourishment.

We derive the present name of this month from the Romans, among whom it was at an early period the first month of the year, as it continued to be in several countries to a comparatively late period, the legal year beginning even in England on the 25th of March, till the change of the style in 1752. For commencing the year with this month there seems a sufficient reason in the fact of its being the first season, after the dead of the year, in which decided symptoms of a renewal of growth take place. And for the Romans to dedicate their first month to Mars, and call it Martime, seems equally natural, considering the importance they attached to war, and the use they made of it.

Among our Saxon forefathers, the month bore the name of *Lenen monat* —that is length month, in reference to the lengthening of the day at this season, the origin also of the term Lent.

The month is portrayed as a man of tawny colour and fierce aspect, with a helmet on his head (so far typical of Mars) while, appropriate to the season, he is shown leaning on a spade, holding almond blossoms in his left hand with a basket of seeds on his arm, and in his right hand the sign of Aries or the Ram, which the sun enters on the 20th of the month, thereby denoting the augmented power of the sun's rays, which in ancient hieroglyphics were expressed by the horns of animals.

Many things of importance are credited to March.

March 1st: St. David's Day; Wm. Caxton was born; first Victoria Cross given, 1857; William Cobbett was born; first daily paper printed 1702.

Julius Caesar assassinated, March, 44 B.C.

St. Patrick's Day, March 17.

England laid under interdict, March 23, 1208.

Queen Elizabeth died, March 24th, 1602.

The Annunciation—Lady Day—March 25th.

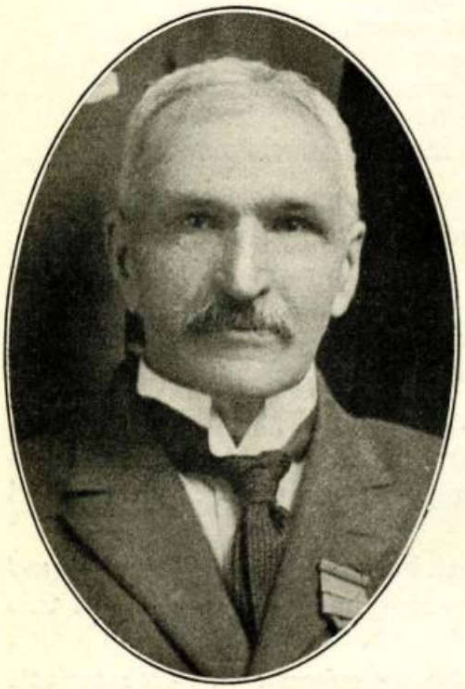
Good Friday. Easter Day.

John Calder

Retires After Fifty Years' Service

(The event here noted took place just too late to be recorded in December issue of The Beaver)

THE members of the department staffs of the Hudson's Bay Company at the head office, Winnipeg, gathered together Saturday afternoon, November 28th, 1925, to do honour to Mr. John Calder, chief accountant in Canada for the Company, who retired after completing the remarkable service of fifty years.



Mr. Harman, land commissioner, took the chair for the occasion and spoke at length on Mr. Calder's splendid record of service, his imperturbability, his steady good nature and his loyalty to the Company to whom he had devoted his entire life's work. He spoke of him as an outstanding example of "duty well done and rest well earned."

Mr. C. W. Veysey, manager of the Company's wholesale department at Winnipeg; Mr. J. Chadwick Brooks, secretary for the Hudson's Bay Company in London, England; Mr. James Thomson, ex-commissioner and still a member of the Canadian committee; Mr. George W. Allan, K.C., member of the London committee and chairman of the Canadian committee; all spoke in turn in the highest terms of Mr. Calder's wonderful record and of the great regard in which he had always been held by the governor and members of the London committee as well as by all the Company's executives and the general staffs in Canada.

Mr. Thomson made the presentation, which consisted of a handsome eight-day clock bearing the following inscription:

"Presented to John Calder by his colleagues of Winnipeg head office as a token of esteem and respect on the occasion of his retirement from the position of chief accountant, following completion of fifty years' service with the Hudson's Bay Company, November 30th, 1925."

Mr. Calder in his reply briefly reviewed his career since he joined the service as a clerk at old Fort Ellice early in 1876 under Archibald Macdonald (afterwards chief factor), of whom he spoke in loving terms as a broad-minded, energetic, strict gentleman, and one of the very best.

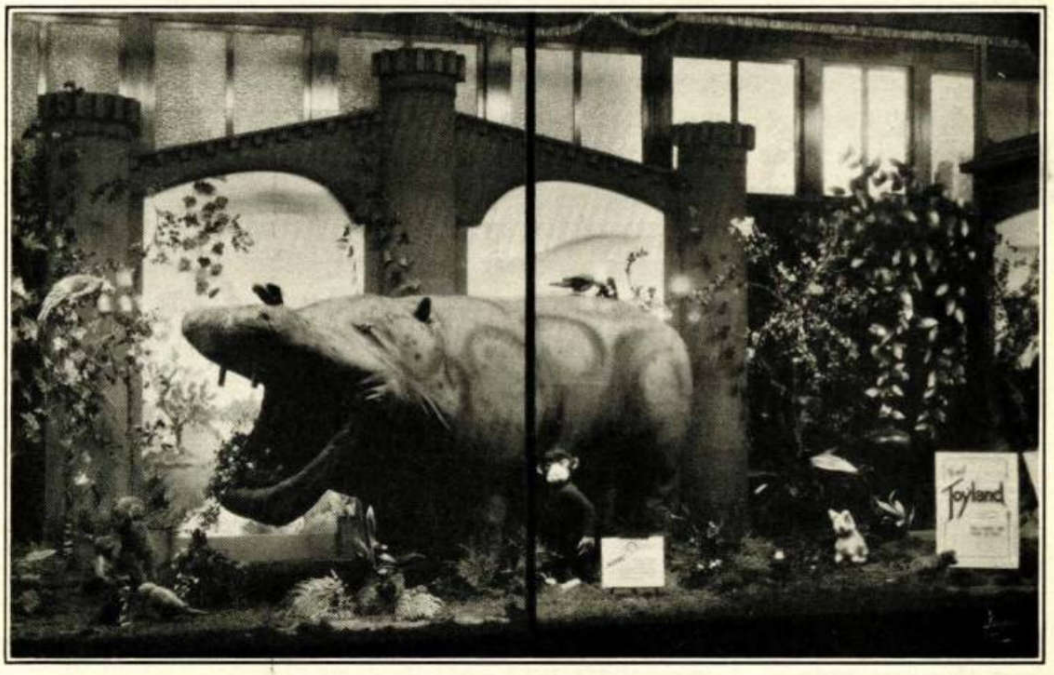
It was Mr. Calder who in those early days changed the Company's method of keeping books from single to double entry, and his daring was looked upon with not a little trepidation by Archibald Macdonald.

Among John Calder's old friends were James Thomson, who joined the service five years after Mr. Calder, and who is still on duty as a member of the Canadian committee; the late Commissioner C. C. Chipman, Chief Factor W. T. Livock, Chief Trader W. J. McLean (Big Bear), still in Winnipeg, and the late Chief Factor Roderick MacFarlane, most of whom were his co-workers in those early days when he held the position of district accountant with the Company while still an apprentice clerk "passing rich on forty pounds a year."

In concluding, Mr. Calder stated, for the encouragement of his present-day younger associates: "My work has been the greatest pleasure of my life and I have always enjoyed it more than anything else outside in which I could participate." He asked his hearers to join with him in the ancient toast, which had been so often given in the days gone by, "The Lady of Lime Street."

Mr. and Mrs. Calder will make their future home in Vancouver, B.C.

Saskatoon



This hippopotamus was made by our display manager, W. Wilson. It was actual life size and twice as natural, and attracted much attention. The mouth and eyes were made to open and close continuously, being electrically connected. We can recommend the hippo for any of the stores. Full details of construction will be gladly given.

First Discovery of Coal in Western Canada

By H. H. HARRIS, Winnipeg

VERY little coal has been found in Manitoba. It is a lignite soft coal, just changing from the brown to the black stage, and has not the heat value of the coal from Alberta and British Columbia. It is found in the southwest of the province in the Turtle Mountain district, this district being the beginning of the Souris lignite coal area.

There was no mining of importance in this field until the opening of the country by the railroad, although it is interesting to note that about the year 1880, twenty-five tons were shipped from Roche Percee down the Souris river to Winnipeg.

It may be of interest to learn that it was a Hudson's Bay Company man, one Peter Fidler, who made the first discovery of coal in the West while on a journey across the plains in 1793. He saw an outcropping near the mouth of Rosebud Creek, Wayne, Drumheller. It is along the banks of this creek that today the great part of the deep-seam Drumheller coal is mined, such as the Western Commercial, Jewel, etc.

Forty-eight years later, in 1841, Sir George Simpson, governor of the Company, saw coal about 150 miles north of here in the Edmonton district and mentioned the fact in his reports. It will be seen then that Peter Fidler's discovery was undoubtedly the earliest on record and has turned out to be of great importance in the development of the West.

Peter Fidler was a most interesting character and a few facts relating to his life will bear recording.

Born in 1769 in the county of Derby, England, he joined the Hudson's Bay Company in 1791, twenty years before the first Selkirk settlers arrived. He was entrusted with the conduct of one of the parties of settlers from Hudson Bay to the Red river. Peter Fidler served as surveyor and trader for the Company for many years, and made the first boundary survey of the district of Assiniboia. He also surveyed the district of Kildonan for the Selkirk Settlers. That he was a man of some peculiarities is evident from the fact that he left a very strange will, the main features being that after certain monies were paid out, the remainder was to be kept untouched until the year 1969, which would be two hundred years after his birth. The Hudson's Bay Company, the Company's secretary and the governor of the Selkirk settlement were named trustees, but these renounced the probate and execution of the will. The whereabouts of the will is not generally known. Lawyers have been appointed at various times to find out the whereabouts of the residue of the estate which should be accumulating till 1969, but no trace of it can be found in Hudson's Bay Company or Bank of England accounts, though diligent search has been made.

A Host of Advertising Managers

By PAGE MADDISON, Winnipeg

ARTHUR BRISBANE, one of the greatest advertising men of today, says, "Advertising is only telling." Let me show you how we salespeople are advertising managers running our own departments. Firstly, let us go back to the Paleolithic age to get a real grip on the meaning of the word advertising. When Swan-neck, the fair-haired maiden, decided to take unto herself a husband, she sat in the entrance to the cave, where the sunlight glinted on her fair hair, and waited with demure look and clasped hands for *the* man to come. Presently the young men drew near to inspect and prospect, and, after argument and battle, Big-head, the survivor, dragged the maiden away to his lair.

Take also the case of Red-one. She had freckles, red hair and a powerful temper. Just sitting in the sun didn't *put her over* with the young men of the tribe. After much reflection, she discovered that wetting the hair made it curl and fluff; that a deft cut in her robe with a sharp flint showed more of her, and that a careful repinning of the thorn that held her leopard-skin shoulder strap made a vast improvement in the scenery. She too was carried off by the surviving youth.

Now Swan-neck sold herself on her merits, without embellishment, which may, perhaps, be classed as salesmanship. Red-one, though, used *display* advertising and a *direct male* appeal that established its own market. That was salesmanship plus advertising.

Now, to come down to cases, when you or I serve Mrs. Jones with a package of cream cheese in a nice way, and add a polite "Will there be anything else?" we may be guilty of salesmanship, but I doubt if any jury would convict us. But when we smile on Mrs. Jones and sell her a bottle of olives and a dozen dills to complement her cream cheese, give her a recipe for mayonnaise and a brand new idea for table decoration, we've done a lot of advertising for the store.

Campbells Inc., during the year 1898, sold 500,000 cans of soup. By educating the grocers and the public to think Campbell when they thought soup, they have increased their turnover until they now sell 18,000,000 cans per week. Quite a tribute to the value of persistence. And they still give out hundreds of thousands of cook books each year and run a domestic science department that costs a fortune to keep up.

Now, don't misunderstand me. I am not recommending the *high pressure* type of salesmanship that sells a man the wrong size in shoes simply because he wants shoes and we haven't the right size in stock, or in selling a person more than he needs. I do repeat, though, that you and I are advertising managers with a department all of our own, and that every sale we make is in itself a complete advertising campaign.

Our text says, "Advertising is only telling." To be really effective the telling must be both persistent and courteous.

As We Were in 1756

THE following interesting notes on Canada, Canadian trading posts and the Hudson's Bay Company are made in an old book which bears the date of 1756 and is entitled, *The Modern Gazeetteer, or A Short View of the Several Nations of the World*, by Mr. Salmon, author of *Modern History*. The book is now in the Company's library at Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Introduction (page 19)—The Hudson's Bay Company export woollen goods, haberdashery wares, knives, hatchets, arms, and other hard ware; and import great quantities of beaver skins, and other skins and furs.

Canada—Or New France, in North America, is bounded by Eskimaux, or New-Britain, and the British colonies on Hudson's Bay on the North, and by the river of St. Lawrence, the Iroquois or five Indian nations, the Huron and Illinois lakes on the East and South and by unknown lands on the West, the chief town whereof is Quebec.

Albany—A British fortress, situated on the South West of Hudson's Bay, in 83 degrees of West longitude and 53 degrees North latitude.

Churchill Fort—Situated on the East side of Hudson's Bay in British Canada, in America, West longitude 96, North latitude 60, the most northerly fort, belonging to the Hudson's Bay Company.

Hudson's Bay—West longitude 80, North latitude between 51 and 63, situated in the North part of Canada, in North America, where the English Hudson's Bay Company have several forts and settlements, and traffic with the natives for beaver skins, and other skins and furs, to a very great value, being one of the most gainful trades our merchants have. But if the French in the neighbourhood should attack their settlements, neither their garrisons or fortifications would be able to make long resistance.

Nelson Fort—West longitude 91, latitude 57, a fort and settlement on the West side of Hudson's Bay, in Canada, in North America, situated at the mouth of Nelson river, on a bay of the sea, 600 miles North West of Rupert fort, and 250 miles South East of Churchill fort, subject to Great Britain, and in possession of the factors of the Hudson's Bay Company.

Rupert Fort—West longitude 80, latitude 51, a settlement belonging to the English Hudson's Bay Company, situated at the bottom of Hudson's Bay, 600 miles South East of Fort Nelson, and 300 miles North West of Quebec.

Our Cover Picture

Our cover picture, "A Labrador Fishing Schooner" is from the original drawing of Miss N. M. Hepburn, Freehold, N.Y., and kindly contributed by her.

Our Spring Style Story

By SUZANNE

WHAT will the new season bring forth? The editor has read the question in the hearts of our feminine readers and has called upon me to answer it. With the help of authorities on the subject I will endeavour to comply.

The New Reboux Hat so much talked about

Hats, Paris says, will continue to be close-fitting and bright-hued: Crowns high, brims very small and irregular; colours to the fore will be green in pistache and reseda tones, blue in French and Copenhagen shades, violet and fuschia.

Spring frocks show a subtle newness in detail and silhouette. New, not in bold decided variations from the ones we are wearing now, but in subtle almost undistinguishable touches which alter the finished effects. Flares are flarier, for instance, and there are more of them. Skirts often flare in tiers, and pleats are more numerous than ever. Necklines favour the V, but often a fly-away bow accentuates its smartness. Belts have returned; capelets fly from shoulders and tunics cover knees. Novel cuffs appear on sleeves, together with bright embroidery.

The silhouette, as it stands announced for spring, shows the waist line gradually reverting to normal position, and curves everywhere replacing severe straight lines. Flouncings, tunic effects, panellings, scallopings, uneven hem lines, capes, jabots, cravats, fringes, embroideries, all find some mark of favour for the new frocks. Sleeves are to be long and the neck finish generally high. Pastel colours are favoured, and black is again revived for afternoon wear. Metals are more fashionable than ever for evening dresses, for blouses, and as trimmings of costumes for the street.

Fabrics are supple and wide, whether they be wool, cotton or silk. Prints and bordered effects, spat patterns and pin checks, soft supple broadcloths and cashmere mixtures in every known weave and design will be worn.

Colour is the note of the season—high colours and pastel shades, strong contrasts and delicate rainbow effects. Blue in pastel and dark shades will lead for street wear, with pistache green and blue-green next in favour. Rosewood in dark shades will be popular. Yellow is the strong sports colour. Scarlet will again be revived.

Shoes will contrast with costumes' gayety by adopting simplicity as their keynote; plain pumps in black kid, in patent leather or in brown kid, one or two-tone combination. For summer the coloured shoe will be the vogue for shore wear, in kid, suede, or linen.

Crispy Taffeta Frocks will be popular

Nigger Humour

Lily—So yo' done mortgaged our li'l home?

Mose—Jes' temp-rarily, honey, till de mortgages am fo'closed.—*American Legion Weekly.*

AMBITION

Visitor—Rastus Johnson is very shiftless, isn't he?

Sambo—No, suh. Dat man am de most ambitous niggah what is.

Visitor—Ambitious?

Sambo—Yes, suh. He says he won't be satisfied until his wife am doin' all de washings in town.—*The Rumbler.*

TOO SOON

Porter—De man in room seben has done hang hisself!

Hotel Clerk—Hanged himself? Did you cut him down?

Porter—No, sah! He ain't dead yet!—*Life.*

WONDERFUL FOOD

"What is de usefulest kind o' food dar is?" queried Julius of his mate, Matilda.

"Ah 'spects chickens is 'cause you all can eat 'em 'foh dey's borned and after dey's daid."—*Lawyer & Banker.*

THE AWFUL PROSPECT

Lizzie Ann—Brother Congo, I hear Sis Johnson's dead—when she gwine be interned?

Bro. Congo—Dey ain't gwine be no internment.

Lizzie Ann—How come?

Bro. Congo—De fambly hab decided she's to be incriminated.—*Life.*

GIVE HER TIME

Rastus—Ah wants a divorce. Dat woman jes' talk, talk, talk, night an' day. Ah cain't get no rest and dat talk am drivin' me crazy.

Young Lawyer—What does she talk about?

Rastus—She doan' say.—*Life.*

GENEALOGY

Two negroes were standing on the corner discussing family trees.

"Yes, sur, man," said Ambrose, "Ah kin trace mah relations back to a family tree."

"Chase 'em back to a family tree?" said Mose.

"No, man! Trace 'em! Trace 'em! Not chase 'em."

"Well, dey ain't but two kinds of things dat lives in trees—birds and monkeys—and yo' sho' ain't got no feathers on yo'."

LOOKING AHEAD

A negro who was the father of twelve children rocked in the same cradle, was putting the latest arrival to sleep.

"Rastus," said his wife, "dat cradle am just 'bout worn out."

"'Tis 'bout gone," replied Rastus. "You all bettah get 'nother, and get a good one—one dat'l last."

LEGAL HUMOUR

"Hello, Mose, how long you-all in jail fo'?"

"Three weeks."

"What did you do?"

"Jes' killed mah wife."

"An' you-all only got three weeks?"

"Dat's all. Den dey's goin' to hang me."—*Lawyer & Banker.*

DAMAGED ENOUGH

A negro woman of mammoth proportions and inky complexion was brought unconscious to a hospital after a collision. When she came to, the surgeon, thinking to comfort her, remarked:

"You will undoubtedly be able to obtain a considerable amount of damages, Mrs. Johnson."

"Damages!" cried Mrs. Johnson. "What Ah want wif damages? Ah got damages enough now. What Ah needs is repairs!"

THERE AND BACK AGAIN

An old negro was brought into a police-station, charged with vagrancy.

"Law, mistah, I ain't no vagrant! I's a hard-working, religious man. Look at dose!" and he pointed proudly to the large patches ornamenting the knees of his trousers. "I got dem from prayin'!"

"How about the patches on the seat of your breeches?" asked a policeman.

The negro looked sheepish for a moment, then: "I reckon I must have got does backslidin'." he said.

BIBLICAL HISTORY

The negro pastor was explaining to his dumbfounded congregation how Pharoah's daughter found Moses in the bulrushes.

"Yas, breddern and sistern, dere was little Moses in dat basket, wid dem wild cattle surroundin' him, an' yellin' an' pawin' de ground. But Pharoah's daughter was a brave gal.

"Forcin' her way through dem ragin' animals, she grabbed up little Moses an' dat's how she done saved him from de bull-rushes."—*Harrison Jones.*

News from Stores, Posts and Branches

Editorial Staff

The following is a list of the names of the associate editors of *The Beaver*, to whom we are largely indebted for the news and other material that come to our magazine from the points mentioned. Of course we have many special contributors not included in this list.

Stores

Calgary	S. R. Edgar
Edmonton	J. P. McNichol
Kamloops	E. J. Lanceley
Lethbridge	W. L. Ogden
Nelson	W. S. King
Saskatoon	J. E. Jones
Vancouver	F. S. Garner
Vernon	H. Pout
Victoria	A. S. Woollard
Winnipeg	T. F. Reith
Yorkton	H. N. Louth

Wholesale

Edmonton	Wm. Watson
Montreal	A. E. Dodman
Winnipeg	F. G. May

Depot

Winnipeg	A. Knowles

Fur Trade Districts

British Columbia	C. H. French
Edmonton and Fort Murray	L. Romanet
Fort William	J. D. McKenzie
Keewatin	J. Bartleman
Moose Factory	Geo. R. Ray
North Bay	J. J. Barker
St. John's, Nfld.	W. J. Carson
St. Lawrence-Labrador	Ralph Parsons
Saskatchewan	S. T. Youngman
Winnipeg (Head Office)	W. W. Conn
York Factory	C. Harding

Land

Edmonton	J. R. McIntosh
Victoria	E. H. Wilson
Winnipeg	B. A. Everitt

Executive Office

Winnipeg, Chief Editor	R. Watson

Notice to Associate Editors

Associate editors are again requested to give initials of all persons (both women and men) mentioned in their store news. This is absolutely essential to uniformity.—The Editor.

Vancouver

ANNUAL BANQUET AND MEETING OF H.B.E.A.

Marked by a spirit of thorough good fellowship, the annual banquet provided by the Company, and enjoyed in conjunction with the Hudson's Bay Employees' Association meeting, was held Thursday evening, January 21st, in the Imperial restaurant and two adjacent dining rooms. It was the first occasion since the absorption of many of the Gordon Drysdale staff that the employees as a whole have met in a social way, and the good will prevailing between old and new members was strikingly in evidence.

Headed by the general manager, Mr. P. J. Parker, host for the Company and president of the association, and guests, the staff proceeded to the banqueting room at 6.45 p.m.

At the President's Table

The president's table was appropriately decorated with cut flowers, etc., while immediately in the background was a setting of the Union Jack and the Company's house flag. The president was supported at the head table by the outgoing and the incoming committee of the H.B.E.A. for the year 1926, viz.: Messrs. C. H. French, A. H. Doe, G. A. H. Porte, H. R. P. Gant, F. Herbert, W. L. Frayer, D. Dale, A. R. Mann, G. D. Mitchell, S. N. Purdy, A. Webster, E. M. Williams, Misses B. Blake, E. S. Morley, G. McFarlane, E. M. Paull, V. Prendergast, Mrs. K. Desmond, Dr. J. L. Ford, Rev. R. G. MacBeth, D.D.

After grace had been pronounced by the Rev. R. G. MacBeth, D.D., the entire staff joined in the singing of "O Canada."

Manager Gets Ovation

This was followed by three rousing cheers and a tiger to the general manager, Mr. P. J. Parker. The large assembly sat down at tables which were literally groaning under the weight of cold roast turkey and cranberry sauce, Premium ham, salads, English pudding, cake, ice cream and fruit.

Orchestra Entertains

While the happy guests were busily enjoying what was conceded the finest supper the Company's well-known chef (Nechtle) had ever prepared, the Hudson's Bay orchestra excelled itself in its playing of the season's most popular selections, and received the unanimous approval of all present. Supper concluded the first part

of the programme. The second part consisted of the president's and other reports.

President's Address

Ladies and Gentlemen: I must first of all thank you for electing me as president of your association. I am fully appreciative of the good work carried on by your organization, and it shall always be my aim to do what I can to further your efforts. Let me take this opportunity of strongly supporting the appeal of the secretary for more members; in fact, I do not think the committees should feel satisfied until they have enrolled every employee.

I have had the privilege of perusing the reports of the various officials as printed in the booklet before you, and it is certainly most gratifying to observe the improved financial condition of the association, especially so as this has been brought about by the fact that there has been a lesser number of sick cases. The work of the association is referred to fully in the following reports, and I will not take up your time by commenting on the various phases. I may say in passing, however, that during his visits to Canada in 1924 and 1925, the Governor had evinced a keen interest in the welfare association attached to the Company's stores. Indeed he was strong in his opinion that one of the most vital things connected with the store was that of having every employee loyal and happy, and it is because of this it is my intention in the very near future to hold a meeting of the entire staff to discuss the welfare of the employees and to form a staff committee to look into the just grievances as they occur, with a view to having them adjusted satisfactorily. And I know you will all be pleased to read from the report of Mr. Williams that the Governor has presented a cup, which will be competed for on the annual sports day.

I think it is only fitting that on this occasion I should refer to one who occupied the position of your president for many years. Mr. Lockyer is now enjoying a well-earned rest, and as this is the first large gathering of store employees which has been held since his departure, I would suggest, if I am in order, that the association send the following message to him:

"Annual gathering Vancouver staff send greetings to Mrs. Lockyer and yourself."

Mr. Lockyer was actively connected with our association since its inception, and I am sure he would appreciate this little message of remembrance.

Before closing, I desire to express my personal thanks to those who are engaged in carrying out the objects of the association, and I am hopeful that in the near future we will be able to record a 100-percent membership.

Dr. MacBeth Speaks

The report of the secretary, social committee, welfare and sports committee being in leaflet form, it was decided by a motion to the meeting that the reports as submitted be adopted as read. Then followed a few brief remarks by the Rev. R. G. MacBeth, D.D., who claimed through his family more than 100 years' association directly and indirectly with the Company, and that it was due to the Hudson's Bay Company that he was here in Canada; his parents were among those who formed part of the Lord Selkirk settlers who came to Canada from Scotland and the Islands in the year 1812. Hence he felt he was entitled to be a member of the H.B.E.A. In the beginning, he stated, the Company laid claim to being an English one, but that during the recent years its personnel had changed, and could claim Scots, Irish and Welsh among its executives, thus broadening its vision to the greater success of the Company and shareholders, too. In concluding his remarks, he pointed out the unfailing loyalty and devotion which pioneers of the service had shown to the Company, and showed how success was only possible for those who served their employers faithfully and well.

Keep Employees Well

Dr. Ford, the Company's medical adviser, then gave a brief message on how to keep well, also on how to get well after becoming sick.

Musical Programme

Great praise is due the social committee for the wonderful programme which they had arranged for the third part of the entertainment, the artists being of an exceptionally high calibre and rendering a programme which was delightful from start to finish. The programme was as follows: Song, Miss H. McLeod; song, Mr. W. Wright; violin selection, Mr. W. Eggett; song, Miss Edna Matthews; song, Mr. J. A. Hall; humorous selection, Mr. Frank Hoole; song, Mr. W. Wright; selection, the Apollo Quartette; humorous selection, Mr. Frank Hoole; song, Miss R. McLeod; selection, the Apollo Quartette.

Happiness reigned supreme, and at 10.30 p.m. one of the most successful staff banquets ever held came to a conclusion with the singing of "God Save the King."

J. HARVEY COSSEY

J. H. Cossey comes to the store as a buyer in the fur department. He is a man of wide experience. Born in Northampton, England, he served a five-year apprenticeship to the dry goods business in his native town, then went to Hitchcock Williams as improver and later joined the

staff of Goodson's, Manchester, reaching the important position of travelling manager. He came to Canada in 1906 and joined the staff of L. Gneadinger Son & Company, of Montreal, and later the Kaufman Fur Manufacturing Co. Limited. He joined the Company's store here in December last.

E. R. DUNK

We welcome E. R. Dunk, who comes to this store as buyer in dress goods, silks and staples, having previously been connected with Ramsey's, of Edmonton, for a period of eleven years in the capacity of European buyer. Prior to that, he was general manager for Joseph Appelbe Company, Windsor, Ontario.

We welcome Miss Canfield and Mrs. Sidenius to the mail order department. Mrs. Sidenius was formerly with Gordon Drysdale's, while Miss Canfield comes to us from Crann's Limited.

After two years of continuous and faithful service in the mail order department, Miss Mary Leigh has been promoted to the position of chief inspector.

Mr. Pat Logue, of the grocery department, left several weeks ago for Notch Hill, where he has accepted a position as manager of a general store.

Mr. S. D. Wilson, buyer of women's, men's and children's shoes, has left on a European buying trip.

Visiting Toronto, Montreal, New York and other prominent eastern fashion centres, Miss E. Andrews, ready-to-wear buyer, and Mr. Aldrick, our millinery buyer, will make extensive purchases for the Spring and Summer trade. They expect to be away for two or three weeks.

SPORT

H.B.E.A. Basket-ball Club—The H.B.E.A. basket-ball club is making a good name for itself. A new club this season, and already it has the following of a big league game. The first two games were victories, and the next game should finish up the same way. It's seldom indeed that a new aggregation makes such a fine showing. But it's all in teamwork, and in this aggregation we have a team that believes in permitting everyone to do his individual bit. The team is composed of A. Cowan, M. Muskett, J. Harrison, R. Anderson, L. Bryant, S. Thompson.

IS SEWING A DYING INDUSTRY?

Women no longer make and mend clothes, according to W. H. Coats, chairman of the great cotton thread firm of J. & P. Coats, and this shirking of sewing responsibilities has considerably perturbed him.

A profit was made by the firm last year, but Mr. Coats, addressing a general meeting of the shareholders at Glasgow recently, when a dividend on the ordinary shares of 17½ percent was unanimously approved said that sales had been largely affected by this "curtailment of the practice of home sewing."

Changes in women's fashions, he stated, have also affected trade, but not to the same degree as modern woman's refusal to spend an hour or so at home each week, contentedly sewing.

A woman writes: There has never been a time, since women forsook the spinning wheel and utilised their needles instead, when they have used so little cotton or silk, or executed so little needlework.

Modern fashions are responsible for the change. Years ago women of leisure delighted to make all their own lingerie and blouses. Now, unless girls are exceptionally good needlewomen, they find it cheaper to buy these articles. Then, again, women's underwear has changed in kind. Voluminous petticoats, with masses of frills that took them so many hours and so much material to make, have vanished. Skimpy silk ones do not require half so many stitches.

Dresses have suffered similarly. Short and narrow one-piece frocks do not need the yards of neat hemming that women of other decades put into their work. The amount of cotton used in stitching one modern dress is probably only a quarter of that needed for the trimming of an old-fashioned dress. There are now no tails or trains, frills or furbelows that once made inroads into the reels in the housewifery baskets.

Even infants' clothes have changed. What self-respecting baby of today is seen wearing yards of white garments that are repeated several times on his small person? Warm, short, woollen garments are placed in his wardrobe, and through the succeeding ages of childhood woollen things are worn instead of the old-fashioned dresses and petticoats.—*Mrs. Davies, Vancouver.*

He was introduced to me and called me —"Miss Mabel."

Half an hour later he called me—"Mabel."

He took me out and called me—"Kid."

During our engagement, he called me—"Sweetie."

On our honeymoon, he called me—"Tootsums."

Six months after the marriage, he called me—"Dear."

After five years, he calls me—"Hey, you!"—*Brown Jug.*

Victoria

ANNUAL GATHERING

Employees as Guests of the Company

Over three hundred employees of the Victoria store were royally entertained by the Company at a sumptuous banquet, followed by a dance, held on Tuesday evening, January 5th.

It was also the occasion of the annual meeting of the Employees' Association, when reports on the work of the past year were submitted and officers elected for the present year.

A. J. Watson, manager of the Victoria store and president of the Employees' Association, presided at the banquet, which was held in the Company's large dining hall on the fourth floor.

Among the guests of honour were E. H. Wilson, manager of the Land department; M. S. Beeston, A. Nicholson, F. Leggo and Dr. R. L. Millar. Telegrams and letters were read from A. H. Doe, superintendent of store construction; P. J. Parker, general manager of the Company's stores in B.C. and Southern Alberta; Walter Fowles, and others, expressing regrets at not being able to attend.

Striking a most optimistic note for the year just commenced, extracts were read from a letter received from G. W. Allan, chairman of the Canadian Committee of Hudson's Bay Company.

Two New Records

A. J. Watson welcomed the guests in behalf of the Company. It gave him a great amount of pleasure, he said, in being able to report that the business continued to show satisfactory progress. It was gratifying to know that the month of December saw two new records established: the biggest day the store has ever had, and the biggest week's volume produced since the store opened nearly five years ago.

Mr. Watson paid tribute to the loyalty and willing co-operation shown by the staff during the past year, particularly during the Christmas season. He was especially pleased at the way the staff met the extra call upon their time and energy. He was in the habit of judging men and women by the way they met the demand for extra effort. In every walk of life, no matter what vocation one followed, there came the call for the extra, strenuous effort, and the thing was to meet it with correct poise and a willing spirit to do one's duty in whatever state of life God had placed them. He had no sympathy with the individual who begins to whine as soon as the extra effort is necessary. This class of individual usually forgets the time when business is quiet and there is a general slackening of effort—but the pay envelope goes on as usual. He was happy in the knowledge that everyone carried on during the recent busy season willingly and without grumbling.

More Business, Fewer Complaints

While speaking of the recent Christmas business, Mr. Watson said he would like to pay a special tribute to the work of the delivery department. In spite of the fact that there was more business than last year, there were fewer complaints, showing not only that the men responsible for getting the merchandise into the customers' hands did their work efficiently, but proved that the staff generally were more careful in taking addresses and acting on instructions given.

Looking forward to the year 1926, they should all feel very optimistic. Such prominent men as Sir John Aird, Mr. Beatty of the C.P.R., Sir Henry Thornton and others all spoke of 1926 as promising to be the best year since 1912 and 1913. Referring to the development schemes of the Company, Mr. Watson remarked that they would scarcely embark upon such ambitious lines if they were not confident that the immediate future held out great promise.

He would like to see the year 1926 marked for a forward movement in regard to the cementing of a closer relationship between the Company and its employees, and in like manner a strong and cordial friendship between themselves and their customers.

Healthy Financial Condition

As president of the Employees' Association, Mr. Watson referred to the fact that not only had they finished the year with the largest bank balance in the history of the association, but had, through the welfare branch, rendered a greater amount of assistance to members who had been laid aside by sickness and accident than ever before. He said the social and athletic branch had been particularly active during the year. The football team deserves special mention for the way they fought their way to the top of the league and he had every confidence that they were there to remain. Other branches of sport have been enjoyed by many of the members. The monthly dances held in the Alexandra Hall have been enjoyed by many of the members, as well as by a great number of their friends. Great credit is due to the various committees for the hard work they have put in during the year. He strongly urged all the association members to get behind the committees and do all they could to supplement the work they were doing.

Mr. Watson said he was gratified at the splendid report as to the membership of the association, it being practically 100 per cent of the staff.

"I wish especially to thank your secretary, Thomas Wilkinson, for his unfailing energy and willing service rendered to the association. I also wish to thank Mr. Merryweather, your treasurer, who is to be congratulated upon producing such a satisfactory balance sheet. Thanks almost seem inadequate when mentioning the athletic and social committees under the able chairmanship of Mr. Shrimpton and Mr. Stark, respectively."

Gratifying reports were submitted by the treasurer of the association, W. V. Merryweather; Tom Wilkinson, secretary; P. Shrimpton, chairman athletic committee; and Walter Stark, social committee.

P. J. Parker New Honorary President

The election of officers for the year 1926 resulted as follows: Honorary president, P. J. Parker; president, A. J. Watson; vice-presidents, J. S. Horne, A. R. Minnis; secretary, T. Wilkinson; treasurer, W. V. Merryweather; executive, Misses L. Hunter, W. G. McLaren, V. Gardiner, G. Bowden, McDougall, Messrs. E. Dawson, W. Stark, J. C. Cassidy, P. Shrimpton, R. Eaton, W. Woodley, C. Nichols.

During the evening, in addition to hearty community singing, songs were ably rendered by Misses L. White and H. Anderson and Mr. Harold Groves. Mrs. Groves and Miss L. Hunter accompanied at the piano.

Adjourning to the Alexandra Hall, the guests were joined by a large number of friends, and dancing went on until the early hours of the morning. Charlie Hunt's orchestra was in attendance.

PRESENTATION TO MRS. JACK DENYER

A very pleasing event took place on Saturday, January 31st, when W. N. Smith, manager of the grocery department, presented Mrs. Jack Denyer with a handsome piano lamp on the occasion of her leaving the employ of the Company.

Mrs. Denyer, better known by her maiden name, Margaret Knowles, has been in the grocery office since the opening of the store and will be missed by all who were in any way associated with her.

Myra B. Cicero has joined the Victoria store staff as buyer for the millinery department. Miss Cicero has already a large circle of friends in Victoria, having for many years held the position of millinery buyer for Gordon Drysdale's before that firm closed its Victoria branch. She has just returned from her eastern trip, which included New York, Chicago, Montreal and Toronto.

Miss Grimason has also just returned from the eastern markets, having visited Montreal, Toronto, New York and other buying centres.

SPORT

H.B.C. Footballers Head League

Out of fifteen matches played this season the boys in green and gold have no less than ten wins to their credit. One game resulted in a draw and four were lost. In the Wednesday Football League the store team, at the end of the first half of the season, holds the first place. The winners of each half are to play off for the league championship. The following is the standing of the various teams represented in the league:

	P	W	D	L	Pts.
Hudson's Bay Company	10	8	1	1	17
Rennie & Taylor	10	8	0	2	16
Garrison	10	4	2	4	10
Tillicums	10	4	1	5	9
Navy	10	1	2	7	5
Kirkhams	10	2	1	7	5

Basket Ball

Great interest is being maintained in the basket ball games played by our men's and ladies' teams. Out of nine matches, the men have won seven and lost only two. The ladies so far this season have played five matches, winning two and losing three.

Swimming

The swimming parties at the Crystal Gardens are proving more popular than ever. These are held the second and fourth Tuesdays in each month. Special tickets of admission may be obtained from any members of the social committee.

Social Evenings

The monthly dances at the Alexandra Hall continue to be a source of great enjoyment to hundreds of employees and their friends.

The New Year's Eve dance was voted to be the best yet, between three and four hundred attending. Incidentally these dances are helping the funds of the association very considerably, thanks to the energetic committee which has charge of the arrangements.

Yorkton

Yorkton and district have been favoured with a remarkably mild winter. Up to the second week in February there was very little snow, and the freeze-up occurred when the roads were badly cut up owing to the late fall rains. This made it difficult to travel on either wheels or sleighs.

However, we are pleased to report that business on the whole was better than the previous year. We are looking forward to more prosperous times in the year now entered upon.

Calgary

During the past few weeks, the Company has bought the Calgary stock of the D. J. Moore Company, which was valued at $20,000. Transfer of this stock was made very expeditiously and during the early part of February it was placed on sale in our ladies' ready-to-wear salon on the second floor. The results of the sale showed an unprecedented activity for some days and a nice increase in business was netted to start off our new term.

Following the above purchase, the stock of the Miss Fraser Limited store in Calgary was purchased, the value in this instance being in the neighbourhood of $115,000. This stock we are planning to put on sale on the 18th instant, and at the price purchased we are confident considerable increases in business will result. The latter stock includes merchandise for various of our departments, ladies' coats and suits, hosiery, knitwear, millinery, children's outfitting of all kinds, etc.

BUYERS' VISITS TO EUROPE

James H. Bodel, our hardware and toy buyer, left Calgary to visit the Eastern and European markets. Mr. Bodel will return about the end of April. He will make purchases for all the stores in the British Columbia and Southern Alberta zone.

Mrs. M. McKay, who is in charge of the Calgary whitewear departments, is scheduled to leave for Europe about the middle of March.

Mr. Farquhar, of the Winnipeg piece goods departments, was a recent visitor at the Calgary retail. He is proceeding to Europe to purchase yard goods for all the Company's stores.

SPORT

G. A. Greig, manager of the fur workroom at Calgary retail, is congratulated on winning a bronze medallion in the swimming events at the Banff winter carnival. The contestants in the swimming programme at the carnival represented the entire Dominion. In 1925 Mr. Greig won the cup in the local swimming finals at Bowness Park, Calgary.

HOW DO YOU TELL THE TIME?

The time of day I do not tell,
As some do, by the clock;
Or by the distant chiming bell,
Set on some steeple rock;
But by the progress that I see
In what I have to do,
It's either Done o'clock to me,
Or only Half-Past Through.

—*Key of the House.*

Edmonton

ALTERATIONS

At the time of writing, extensive alterations are being made in the Edmonton store. The offices on sixth floor are being completely re-arranged to facilitate the work there and to provide a better service for the general public. A new store will be opened on Jasper Avenue about March 1st, featuring women's shoes and sporting goods. The corset shop, second floor annex, is being enlarged, and the children's department will occupy the space to be vacated by the women's shoe section. The silk shop, linen shop and ready-to-wear departments are being completely re-arranged.

MR. SCOTT GOES TO WINNIPEG

Department managers and the general staff regret the departure of Mr. Scott, who has been transferred to Winnipeg. His thorough knowledge of merchandising and genial personality have won for him many friends who wish him every success in his new field.

WITH THE BUYERS

Miss B. MacDonald has just returned from the eastern markets. Miss B. Gorman is in the east on a buying trip. Mr. B. H. Cooke, manager men's department, left on a buying trip for the European markets. Messrs. Johnson, Sexsmith, Fairfield, Beckett and Bunting are in the eastern markets.

Mr. F. E. Dynes, manager, is in the east on business for Hudson's Bay Company.

We welcome Miss A. Rossiter, in charge of women's ready-to-wear; Miss B. Gorman, formerly of Saskatoon, in charge of corsets and underwear; Miss McKeller, assistant to Miss Gorman; Mr. Johnson, merchandise manager; Mr. W. F. McKerns, in the H.B.C. silk shop.

Lethbridge

One of the mildest winters for many years is our experience. Golf, skating and tennis have been indulged in on the same day. This was the case at Henderson Lake recently, when skating was enjoyed on the lake, and golfers, with light sweaters on, played golf on the course which lies on one side of the lake. Although the tennis court was not in the best of condition, members of our athletic association played tennis two weeks ago at the club house.

While regretting the loss of Mr. Robertson, recently transferred to Winnipeg

head office, it was made the occasion of a presentation in which all the staff joined.

T. B. Thomas-Peter is welcomed as accountant. Mr. Thomas-Peter recently came from Winnipeg.

Miss Dall, manager of the women's and children's wear department, is at present on a buying trip in eastern markets.

We are pleased to welcome as members of the staff, Misses Curphey, Walker and Bowes, Mrs. Shaw and Mr. Bailey.

Before the next issue of *The Beaver* our annual banquet and dance will be but a pleasant memory. Plans are now under way to make this a most enjoyable affair.

SPORT

The principal activities of the Hudson's Bay Athletic Association this winter have been curling and hockey. The curling rink representing the Hudson's Bay Company won the *silver*, gaining first prize for the trades and professional bonspiel.

The hockey team experienced many thrilling games during the season, but still maintain its scalps.

Saskatoon

RETROSPECT AND OUTLOOK

It is with some satisfaction we review the trading of the last six months in the Saskatoon store. In the early fall, the volume gathered a momentum which swung right along to the last day of the outfit, that is January 31, 1926. As we approached Christmas, the speed increased. There seemed to be no respite, and at times we were taxed very heavily to cope with the crowds, but the general *esprit de corps* of the staff pulled us through.

It is difficult for a modest advertising man to attribute any direct cause for the increase in the whole store's volume, but there are four distinct governing features that contribute to a successful period of selling merchandise. First the goods must be properly and well bought, and attractively priced for selling; secondly, they must be properly advertised; thirdly, they must be well displayed, and fourthly, they must be intelligently sold by the sales force. With these four features all working in harmony. there is no fear as to the final analysis, and we believe this is the real cause of the happy trend of events at present prevailing in the Saskatoon store.

The time for going to press for *The Beaver* gives us an opportunity to say a few words in regard to the outlook for 1926. The auspicious start made in the January sales event gives us good ground on which to base an optimistic view-point, and again, our three big events staged for the opening of the new season on the first of February give us cause for hoping for a real 1926. The furniture sale is an eclipse of all previous figures for this department, and the wash goods sale is a record for this section. The February shoe sale is also away to a good start. Here's to 1926.—*L. Jones.*

It is with much regret that we announce the sudden passing of our much respected fellow-worker, S. Herrington, an old-time employee in the staple section, and we extend our sincere condolences to his bereaved ones.

We welcome back Miss Smith, who recently returned from the coast.

Many old friends welcomed J. P. McNichol to Saskatoon during his brief Christmas visit.

C. H. Fair, our store manager, was greatly missed during his recent sickness. It is everybody's sincere wish that he will soon be thoroughly well again.

A general welcome is extended to Miss Harvie, who has recently arrived among us from Winnipeg store.

Miss Gorman has been transferred to manage the underwear and corset departments at Edmonton. We wish her great success in her new venture.

A very delightful shower was held Tuesday evening, February 2nd, at the home of Mrs. Passmore, 425 Avenue D, south, in honour of Miss Marion McNally, of the grocery department.

SPORT

We take pleasure in again dwelling over the fact that the "Sheiks" (Saskatoon's hockey team) beat the "Eskimos" (that is Edmonton's team) at both Saskatoon and Edmonton.

Customer—What have you in the shape of automobile tires?

Efficient Clerk—We have floral wreaths, life belts, quoits, and doughnuts, sir.

A mule, a pig, a duck, a frog and a skunk went to the circus. The mule got in because he had a buck, the pig got in because he had four quarters, the duck got in because he had a bill, the frog got in because he had a greenback, but the skunk had to stay out because he only had a *cent*, and it was a bad one.

OUT OF PRINT

"Mandy, do you wish to marry again if you receive a divorce?"

"Ah should say not! Ah wants to be withdrawn from circulation!"

Winnipeg Retail

SNOWSHOE OUTING TO THE LOWER FORT

An enjoyable snowshoe outing was held by a party from the store to Lower Fort Garry, Sunday, January 10th. Leaving the north car barns at 11 a.m., they arrived in time to do full justice to a lunch prepared for them.

A tour was made of the fort under the guidance of the caretaker, and many "Ohs" were called forth by his interesting descriptions.

Part of the afternoon was spent in a snowshoe tramp along the river and in admiring the beauty of the country under its blanket of snow. After a hearty supper, games were played and a radio concert enjoyed.

The party left for home at 9 p.m., unanimously voting it one of the best outings of the season.

Those present were: Mr. and Mrs. A. Wells, Misses B. Weston, P. Young, C. Drake, P. Mason, and Messrs. L. Fletcher, J. Wright, B. Mitchell and H. Jackson.

THE LATE MRS. E. J. HAVENS

The sudden death of Mrs. E. J. Havens at the Winnipeg General Hospital on February 11th, came as a heavy shock to her friends in the store.

Mrs. Havens went about her usual occupation Saturday, February 6th. She was taken suddenly ill, was removed to the Winnipeg General Hospital, where she died. Interment took place in Elmwood cemetery.

Mrs. Havens leaves a daughter, Hazel, and a son, Renford, to mourn her loss. Her husband predeceased her some years.

Mrs. Havens was a very cheerful and popular member of our staff, beloved by all with whom she came in contact, besides being a capable and hard-working employee.

Among the many beautiful floral tributes were those from the Hudson's Bay Company retail store, the staff of the upholstery department and friends in the store.

W. McLellan, who was buyer in the store between 1915 and 1921 in charge of the blouse shop, came in to say "How do you do" to his old friends one day in January. He is looking well and prosperous, and is located in Calgary.

J. H. Parkinson, one of the oldest of old-timers in the store, for many years head carpet salesman, was sent east in January on a buying trip in company with R. P. Farquhar, of the furniture and drapery departments. "The experience was invaluable," says Mr. Parkinson, "and while a busy time, yet was thoroughly enjoyable. Some of the great stores of the east, of Chicago and of Minneapolis, were eye-openers, as also were visits to the various manufacturing plants. An experience of this kind cannot help but broaden a man's vision."

Miss Florence O'Grady severed her connection with the store January 31st, after a period of nine years' service as department manager of gloves and hosiery. Her friends asked her to accept a handsomely fitted travelling case as a token of their genuine esteem.

Christmas day was the happiest day of the year in a double sense for two members of the staff. Albert Lynch, of the grocery department, chose that day as his wedding day. He was married to Evelyn May, a former employee of H.B.C. Miss Rudge, for some time in charge of the silverware section, was also united in marriage to W. Smith, who formerly was employed in the hardware department. The principals in both weddings have many friends in the store, who take this occasion to wish them life-long happiness.

A hearty welcome is extended to R. McBeth, who entered the service of the Company January 15th. He has taken over the gloves and hosiery department, a line of work in which he has had experience with some of the biggest stores on the continent. Miss Lapsley is a welcome addition to this department, and already has made many friends. She will be in charge of the departments when Mr. McBeth is away on buying trips. We welcome also W. J. Scott, who has been transferred from Edmonton to the Winnipeg store, his term of office commencing February 10th.

Miss Kitching, head of the millinery department, returned from a visit to New York, Chicago and the east February 15th.

Miss Woodhead, buyer of ready-to-wear, and A. C. Dunbar, buyer of boots and shoes, also went east in January and February respectively on extended buying trips, and report some exceptionally fine buys, which should result in successful spring sales.

BUYERS' MOVEMENTS

Extensive preparations are under way with a view to stocking the new store with an abundance of the world's finest merchandise. The movement of buyers to European markets has already begun.

R. D. Buchan, of the hardware department, left the store early in February. After buying stops at Montreal and New York, he sailed for Europe February 20th. He was accompanied by Mr. Fisher, merchandise manager, who will act as mentor for the next month or two to the store buyers in this most important trip.

R. McBeth, of the hosiery and glove departments, sailed for Europe February 13th, after a tour of the Canadian and American markets.

C. J. Atkinson, of the fancy goods, notions, jewellery, etc., was in the east almost the whole of February and, after a visit to the Company's western stores, expects to sail for Europe in March.

A. T. G. Farquhar, an old hand at European travel, expects to make his annual visit to Europe in March.

C. S. Whyte, of the chinaware department, set sail for Europe on 13th February.

SPORT

H.B.C. Girls' Basket Ball Team

Although they have lost their first two games, the girls are not downhearted and the team is practising faithfully to get into trim for the next series.

The games against the Great West Life team were very interesting. Quite a number of fans were out to help the girls along. The first game resulted in a 23-1 victory for the Great West, while the second game was productive of a 33-13 score against the H.B.C. team. This is our girls' first year at the game, and they are making a very creditable showing against more experienced players.

The girls played hard in both games and it would be difficult to pick an individual star. Mr. Smith refereed both meetings.

H.B.C. teams lined up as follows:

F. Battley	I. Cliffe
S. Thorbergson	B. Stevenson
B. Gould	D. Dampier
M. Mulhall	E. Handerkin

A DRY CLEANED SINNER

A coloured Baptist was holding forth. "Now, bredden, come up to de altar an' have yo' sins washed away." All came up but one man.

"Why, Brudder Jones, don't yo' want yo' sins washed away?"

"I done had my sins washed away."

"Yo' has! Where yo' hab yo' sins washed away?"

"In de Methodis' Chapel."

"Ah, Brudder Jones, yo' ain't been washed, yo' just been dry cleaned."

Winnipeg Wholesale

We are pleased to welcome to our office staff Misses Ethel J. Hill, Kathleen F. Hines and N. H. Stabler.

Elswood Johnston, of Saskatoon, paid us a visit on February 16th.

WEDDINGS

An interesting wedding took place at All Saints' Church on 10th December, 1925, when Miss Irene Foley, daughter of Mr. H. G. Foley, formerly of the wholesale staff, became the bride of Mr. David Venters. David has been a member of our wholesale staff for six years, and his many friends wish him and Mrs. Venters every happiness. Friends on the staff presented them with a tea set of Crown Derby, the presentation taking place in the office of our manager, Mr. C. W. Veysey.

Another wedding of interest took place on Saturday, January 16th, at 5.30 p.m., in Riverview Church, when Muriel Smeaton, a member of the office staff for six years, was united in matrimony with Frederick G. May, our popular accountant. Miss Ethel Smeaton made a charming bridesmaid, while C. W. Archer supported the groom. The popular young couple were presented by the staff with a cabinet of silver. Mr. and Mrs. May have made their home in the city. We hope they find great happiness in their new life.

Winnipeg General

JOINT SOCIAL

A highly successful joint dance and whist drive was held for the members and friends of the Winnipeg staffs of the Hudson's Bay Company in the Fort Garry Hotel on December 8th last. The gathering was largely attended, some five hundred being present. The following representative committee was responsible for the arrangements: Robert Watson (chairman), G. Nelson McBride (secretary-treasurer), Misses Boyle, Gow, Wainwright, Brown and Reid; Messrs. Parker, Reid, Cumming, Charlewood and Frayer.

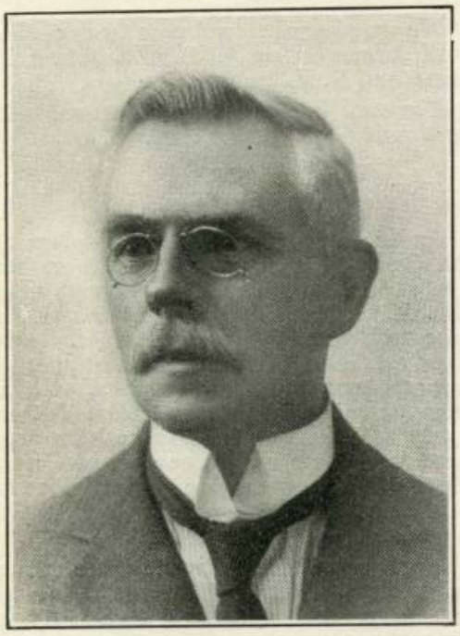
TICKETS, PLEASE!

Old Coloured Mammy—Ise wants a ticket fo' Florence.

Ticket Agent (after ten minutes of weary thumbing over railroad guides)—Where is Florence?

Old Coloured Mammy—Settin' over dar on de bench.

Executive Offices



We congratulate James G. Cruikshank on his promotion to the position of Fur Trade accountant, and wish him every success in his new sphere of work. Mr. Cruikshank has been over twenty years in the service, first in Winnipeg depot and later as assistant to Mr. Calder, the late chief accountant. He holds the Company's silver medal and bar.

Montreal Wholesale

The wholesale department at Montreal has added another member of the London office to its staff in the person of J. F. Kitching, who arrived on the *S.S. Montnairn* in January last. We extend him a hearty welcome and feel sure that he will find his work, surroundings and new country very much to his liking.

Marriages are not an every-day event among the staff at Montreal, but this time we have something really good to report. Mr. Watson, of the St. Lawrence-Labrador district office, and Miss L. M. Swaffield, of the wholesale department, were the central figures in a very happy wedding that took place at St. Jude's Church on the 23rd January, 1926. The staffs of both offices were very well represented at the ceremony, and a good many of them gathered at the bride's home to toast the happy couple and wish them everything good for the future. Mr. Atkins, manager of the wholesale department, in the presence of the staff, conveyed to Miss Swaffield the best wishes of the staff and presented to her in their behalf a beautiful cabinet of cutlery. The esteem in which Mr. Watson was held by fellow-workers in his department was shown in the presentation of a silver tea service by R. Parsons, manager St. Lawrence and Labrador districts, in behalf of the district office.

AN AMERICAN IN LONDON

An American department store head, after a recent visit to Great Britain, was interviewed by the *Chicago Merchant Economist and Dry Goods Reporter.* Here are some amusing extracts from his comments on this aspect of his visit.

"I thought before I went over to London we Americans spoke English. Maybe we do speak English. But if we do, then them Londoners don't speak American. I dropped into a cigar store and bought some cigarettes and asked the man where I could find a drug store. I needed some talcum powder for shaving. And you know he had the hardest time telling me. Finally, he found out that I wanted a chemist's shop.

"He said: 'Ah, ha, it's a *chemist's shop* you want—right across the street.' And sure right across the street there was a drug store. And he had Mennen's Talcum Powder, just what I wanted. Then I asked the chemist if there were any dry goods merchants in that block, and he said no, there were no dry goods merchants in London.

"Now, that didn't sound right to me, so I argued it out with the feller. Finally, by talking back and forth to each other I found out that there are no dry goods merchants in London—they call them drapers. Well, sir, he told me where there was half-a-dozen drapers' stores within the next hundred yards, and on my way I passed a furnishing goods shop and dropped in to buy me a pair of suspenders. The furnishing goods clerk was polite enough. He was anxious to sell me something, but when I asked him for suspenders he said: 'We don't keep suspenders.' I asked him if he knew anybody in London that kept suspenders. He said no, he didn't believe he did; he didn't think there was such a thing in all London.

"Say, I was gettin' disgusted with that town. I opened my vest and snapped my suspenders at him and said: 'Tell me, young man, how, how on earth do you Londoners hold your pants up?'

" 'Oh,' he said back at me, 'it's *braces* you want,' and he pulled out box after box of all kinds of suspenders. Then I began to catch on that the American language in London is a little bit different from the English language in America, and so I says to him: 'We call you folks sales-

people over in America. What do you call yourself over here?'

" 'I am a *shop assistant*,' he replied.

"And that's the way things run over there. Over there a shoe store is a *boot shop*, and low-cut shoes over there are *shoes*, and high shoes are *boots*, and they haven't any real boots in London at all.

"There's no corsets in London either—they call them *stays*, and the elevators are called *lifts*. There is no such thing as thread in London. If you want a spool of thread you ask for a *spool of cotton*. Then you'll get what you want. If you were to go into a furnishing goods store and ask for a pair of pants they'd bring you a pair of *underdrawers*. If you want outside pants you've got to say *trousers* in London."

Kamloops
Nelson
Vernon

No news from the associate editors at these points.

Winnipeg
Land Department

"THE GREAT RUBY"

The H.B.C. Entertainers, consisting chiefly of members of the Land Department staff, put on their annual show on Thursday, February 11th, in the Good Templars' Hall, Winnipeg. The entertainment took the form of a comedy-drama entitled "The Great Ruby," written and directed by A. E. Bridgwater, a member of the Land Department staff, to whom much praise is due.

There was a large audience, and the work of the entertainers was loudly applauded throughout. The staging of Act 2 would have been a credit to any professional musical comedy setting. Much praise falls to all who took part. Entertainments of this nature have been put on for several years now by the Land Department, whose efforts are worthy of the support of all Winnipeg branches of the service, not for the merit of the performances alone, but also for the fact that the undertaking is a big one and the only one of its kind attempted by any of the Winnipeg staffs.

The following is the cast and the names of the performers:

Cast—Hotel Manager, Basil A. Everitt; Willie Willnot (waiter), Wm. Everitt; Gentleman Harry (crook), Detective Brue, A. E. Bridgwater; Chorus Girl, Miss Wade (secret service), I. Ramona Sinclair; Miss Cash (cafe girl-singer), Mrs. Wm. Everitt; The Countess, Louise Fraser; Princess Soo-Soo (interpreter to emperor), Dorothy Wainwright; The Emperor Wung Hi, Van Russell; Dancing Girl, Dorothy F. Cooke; Hotel Guests and Chorus, Marion Ross, Hester Griffiths, Morley Headlam. Pianist, Emma Brown; violinist, Robert Hamilton; banjo, Fred Chess. Secretary-treasurer, Wm. Everitt; director, A. E. Bridgwater; stage manager, Charles Miller.

Act I, Scene I—Cafe "Hotel Continental."

Act II, Scene I—Tower Gardens, Chinatown.

Royal Musicians, F. Chess' Instrumentalists.

Spanish Dancer, Dorothy F. Cooke.

Past Talks to Future

Hark to the hum of a hundred men
As they toil and turn the sod,
Men who were hungry a while ago
As the lonely streets they trod.

Hark to the tread of the horses' feet
And the whirr of the engine wheels;
Can't you hear the life of fresh day begun
With the clang of the heavy heels?

For it's "Come and join in the work of faith,
Get the spirit of 'All is well,'
The fence is around that old waste lot,
A story it has to tell."

And this is the yarn that fence tells me,
As I listen to its tale:
"Here we are building a mighty store,
On the site of an old, old trail;

And because we build, we prove our trust
In the land that gives us food.
We pledge our faith in the years to come,
Not in stones, nor brass, nor wood."

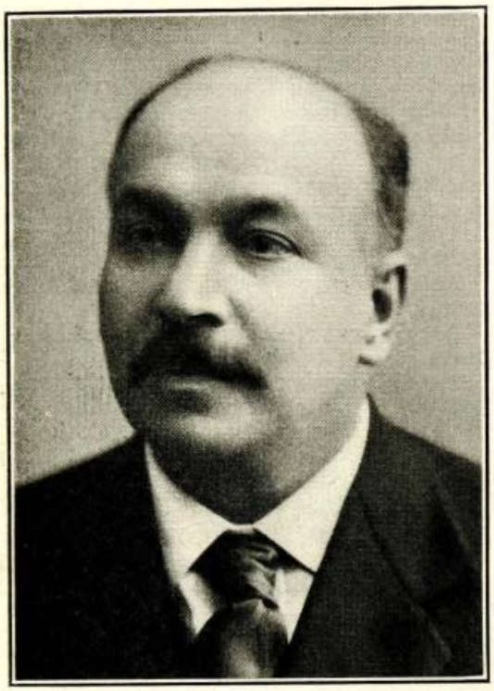
I turn away, but thro' the mist
I hear our forbears call:
"Go ahead, you men who have health and wealth;
Go ahead and build the Mall."

"You say to build you must go in debt;
Have you ever thought this true,
That you owe your city to we who built
The first rough roads for you?

"As long as your faith and work unite,
You may borrow and you will pay.
If you doubt these words, go down to the *fence*—
Take faith from the Hudson's Bay!"

—*Priscilla de Jersey*.

Our Contributors



No. 7—CHRIS. HARDING

Chris. Harding has been a valuable contributor to the columns of *The Beaver* since its inception. He is district manager of Nelson River district, having served the Company for almost thirty years. He was post manager under Commissioner Brabant when the latter was a district manager. In 1914 he was appointed district manager of Western Arctic and, in 1919, district manager of Nelson River, a position he still holds. His headquarters are at York Factory, Manitoba.

Mr. Harding was born at London, England. The following is a list of his contributions which have appeared in *The Beaver*, and we are hoping for many more from his pen:

"Bucking the Ice Floes (York to Severn)."

"Experiences in the Arctic."

"Journey of Bishop Stringer to the Coppermine River."

"Story of Zaa Mo."

"York Factory in the Days of R. M. Ballantyne."

"Old Fort Prince of Wales."

"Bills of Fare York Factory 1838."

"The Monetary System of the Far Fur Country."

Mose—W'en she gits kissed mah wife sho' do squeal.

Gawge (with enthusiasm)—Ah'll say she do!

Mose—W'at's dat, nigguh?

Gawge—Ah sayed, do she?

Fur Trade

THE BEAVER

C. H. French, district manager, British Columbia, and J. G. Woolison, Winnipeg, advise that they also must be included in the list of those who have complete issues of *The Beaver* since its inception.

Winnipeg

September 16, 1925, W. R. Mitchell was married in Toronto. He is now en route to James Bay district after a furlough spent in the Old Country.

November 2, 1925, death of F. D. Wilson, formerly district manager of James Bay district

News was received in November last of the death of G. G. Cleveland in the early part of September, 1925. Capt. Cleveland was previously in charge of the Company's schooner *Fort Chesterfield*.

December 22, 1925, A. Brabant, Fur Trade Commissioner, and L. Romanet returned from England.

Early in February, J. McDermot and John Sutherland visited Winnipeg.

February 16, S. T. Youngman, manager Saskatchewan district, returned from his trip of inspection.

February 18, J. Bartleman, manager Keewatin district, arrived back from his inspection trip.

Fort Alexander

Recent events are crowding so fast that it is difficult to keep pace with them.

On the 7th September Indians started cutting the right-of-way for the new branch line of railway from the site of the pulp mill at Fort Alexander to Beaconia on the main branch of the Victoria Beach line, a distance of twenty miles.

On the 19th of January a regular passenger service was inaugurated. Trains arrive and depart on Tuesdays and Fridays, while daily freight trains are taking in the necessary material used for the pulp mill.

Telegraph messages can now be sent direct to Winnipeg.

At the pulp mill the contractors are hurrying up construction. Work is going on day and night and in all kinds of weather. On account of the blasting operations, quite a number of Indians had to vacate their houses. Even at the fort,

which is about four miles distant, the concussion causes all the windows to rattle.

The electric lighting plant will soon be installed, power being transmitted from Great Falls.

Pulp wood is in demand already. The Spanish River Company are offering the Indians a bonus on top of the regular price allowed to others for pulp wood cut on the reserve. Permits have been granted to individual Indians by the Indian department for ten to fifty cords.

Negotiations are proceeding between the Spanish River Company's officials on the one hand and the chief and councillors on the other for the purchase outright of 400 acres of reserve land, at $40.00 an acre.

—*Chas. H. M. Gordon.*

Cumberland House

During the past twelve months the post manager extracted seventeen teeth from his 'rat hunting customers.

G. S. Cotter, brother of H. M. S. Cotter and post manager here for Revillon Freres for the past seven years, was recently transferred to Fort George, James Bay.

Our garden was not the success it usually is on account of the dry season. We have three hundred maple seedlings which are doing fine, and if all goes well we should be sending out Christmas presents of syrup and sugar in twenty-five years' time.

Mosquitoes are a pest here as elsewhere, but at Davis Inlet post, Labrador, they had a special brand that were armed with arsenic, augers, crowbars, hatchets and dynamite. They could tear holes readily through ordinary summer clothing and could suck the very vitals out of our poor dogs.

Waterfowl during the season were very plentiful and the shooting was good. Mallards are the principal ducks hunted. A couple of years ago a mallard duck was killed here in August that had been tagged at Avery Island, Louisiana, in February. The flight is a long one from the Gulf of Mexico to these parts.

It will interest Labrador readers, who are accustomed to shooting caribou and have never seen a moose, to learn that, when this latter animal is fat in the early winter, one hind quarter dressed weighs up to 75 pounds, the average weight being 50 pounds. While the caribou is a very wary animal, the moose is even more so, and with his sensitive ears and great nose can detect foreign sounds and odours in a most uncanny way, and at great distances. Those of our northern readers who have not seen the results in print will also be interested to know that speedy dogs are raised in these parts. At The Pas, (Manitoba) dog derby of 1923 a train of dogs ran the course of 200 miles in 24 hours, 51 minutes.

AS SHE IS SPOKE

The following is an example of the higher education we sometimes encounter in the north.

"Misser Quarter (Mr. Cotter).

Der frien—Plees to send me 2 sunuff (snuff) 1 calf (salve) an' lil' pees coocoosh (bacon).

Your loving frien."

As an afterthought and to bolster up his credit, he continues:

"My father work long time for Company.

1 frute can (can of fruit) ole chum (Old Chum Tobacco) that all."

BOYS OF THE OLD BRIGADE

Within the last eighteen months, two brothers, Donald and William McKay, died, both beyond the age of seventy. They were old-time servants of the Company and were born and brought up in this neighbourhood. Their father came from Scotland in the early forties and spent all his life in the service of the Company at this post.

With the passing of these two brothers a little ancient history is recalled. It appears that shortly after the war in the Crimea, 1853-56, the Company obtained a supply of military clothing, some of

which was sent to this post via York Factory and was worn by the natives, also by the two McKays when they were lads. And here in the 'rat swamps of the Saskatchewan valley, attired in scarlet tunics, they fought over again in mimic warfare the battles of the Alma and Inkerman. And, 'tis passing strange how history repeats itself, for today we are again bedecking the dark-hued aborigines in tunics of more recent times. Behold the accompanying portrait. Master Canada—full-blooded Cree Indian lad—with his martial cloak around him.

A MODERN CONJUROR

We had many visitors during the past summer, including missionaries, police officials, game guardians, fishery inspectors, and mining men. Mr. Stuart Boa was a very interesting visitor indeed. He is a representative of the Dominion Cartridge Company. The following extract is taken from the *Daily Journal*, Friday, 14th August: Fine day, wind east. Mr. Boa gave a demonstration of the Dominion Cartridge Company's ammunition this evening, and did some most remarkable shooting. He kept a can in the air hitting it every shot and firing rapidly; he also drilled a clean hole with a 30.30 bullet through a half-inch plate of special steel. (The natives tried this later but only made splashes on the steel as if firing tallow candles.) Then he knocked saucers, edge on, to pieces with every shot; never missed once. He broke pebbles in half with a .22; knocked oranges into smithereens and all one could see was vapour; and as for canned corn and pork and beans, he practically cooked the contents in the can. With the exception of the steel plate, all the shooting was done on the wing. The demonstration was remarkable, and a successful one. The natives present were very much impressed. We were all sorry to see Mr. Boa and his friend go away.—*H. M. S. Cotter.*

Keewatin District

It is with deepest regret we announce the death of J. A. Cargill, late of Oxford House post in Keewatin district, at the age of 42. Mr. Cargill had not been in the best of health for the past year, but his trouble was not considered serious. On the day of his death, he underwent an operation, from which he never recovered. He was a brother of W. R. Cargill, late of Keewatin district and now at Nipigon in Lake Superior district. He was born and educated in Scotland, and before joining our service in 1922, spent a number of years in India as a tea planter.

Robert Davidson, who for the past few years has filled the position as accountant at Norway House post, has just returned from Scotland, having spent a short holiday there. While in Scotland, he married the lady of his choice, and although Mrs. Davidson did not come out with him at this time, it is her intention to come out and join him at Oxford House post early next summer. Mr. Davidson has just been appointed to the charge of Oxford House post, and the best wishes are expressed for the future happiness of both Mrs. Davidson and himself.

A. Mackintosh, late of Deer Lake post, has been temporarily in charge of Oxford House post, pending the appointment of a successor to the late J. A. Cargill.

Onion Lake, Sask.

The Boss—"Miss Jenkins, type a letter to Mr. Hodgkins; point out to him that his account is very much overdue and that we should greatly appreciate a settlement. Write him a nice letter."

Ten minutes later—"Oh, this is much too strong. Try again."

Ten minutes later—"Still too strong."

Ten minutes later—"Ah, now this is just right, but I might point out that 'lousy' only has one 's' in it, while 'scoundrel' is hardly ever spelt with a 'k.'

(*An Alex. Seymour contribution.*)

A Company of Gentlemen

By GRAHAM HARRIS, Ouimet, Ont.

A Company of Gentlemen—
Of royal blood their chief—
Set forth to win from distant lands
A new and vaster fief;
They ventur'd o'er an unknown sea,
Upon a chartless way;
Led on by Fate, they pass'd the strait
And reached the northern bay.
They met with smile the threat and wile
Of Chippewa and Cree;
By justice gain'd, as friend remain'd
The whilom enemy.
They braved the winter's deathly cold,
The waters thronged with ice,
And if they won—as they have done—
They surely paid the price.
First in the field, they asked no grace,
Yet grace they often gave;
If stern their ways, in those first days
They had themselves to save.
Quarter a thousand years have gone,
And still it stands today
For dealings square, and barter fair,—
The seal of Hudson's Bay!

Fort George

(JAMES BAY DISTRICT)

The Right Rev. Bishop of Moosonee paid a fleeting visit to Fort George in July, accompanied by his youngest son, and installed Frederick Mark as temporary missionary following the retirement of the Rev. W. G. Walton, after thirty years' missionary work at Fort George. All regretted that the bishop's visit was so brief.

The Roman Catholic mission, under the direction of Rev. Father Boisseau, O.M.I., has erected a steam sawmill, which is the pride of our village and one of the sights and wonders to visiting natives.

Our local supply vessel, *M.S. Churchill*, arrived here on October 4th, after having been posted missing for two weeks. Her delay was due to extremely boisterous weather met with in the Bay, coupled with the loss of a propeller blade. Conjectures as to her fate had been weird and diverse and we were all thankful when she loomed up off the mouth of Fort George river. A. G. MacDonald, a new arrival to the ranks, was a passenger. He takes over his duties here as clerk.

A radio was installed in March, 1925, and works efficiently. Baton Rouge at the mouth of the Mississippi river was heard from during April, which says much for the power of the Radiola 3A. News of the world and concerts are heard nightly, making all feel nearer the hub of things than formerly. We look forward to hearing from headquarters at Christmas.

R. M. Duncan left for his post at Kanaaupscow on October 2nd, following a brief visit to the metropolis of Fort George.

We welcome G. S. Cotter, late of Cumberland House, who arrived in July to take over the charge of Revillon Frères station here. Mr. Cotter's impressions of Fort George are refreshing, albeit tinged by a regret that it's such a long time between mails.

Bathing was indulged by the staff during August and September, and two of Revillon's staff were seen valiantly entering the water in October. It is said that their exit therefrom partook of the nature of flight.

The river set fast on November 8th, being the earliest date that it has been known to freeze for many years back. It was not safe, however, for pedestrians till the 17th November.

Our dog team leaves on December 7th, bound for Eastmain and Rupert's House to fetch mail; everybody's good wishes for a speedy trip go with them and all look forward to a bumper mail for Christmas.

May we here wish *The Beaver* and staff the best of everything during the Yuletide. (Had a good time and now enjoying your good wishes.—*The Editor*).

Births—On July 10th, to Mr. and Mrs. E. Renouf, a son; mother and boy doing well.

Deaths—On November 20th, Mrs. David Louttit, aged 89 years, wife of the late David Louttit, who was post manager of Great Whale River and Little Whale River posts in the '90's. Mrs. Louttit, who is deeply mourned by all, leaves two sons, to whom we extend our heartfelt sympathy in their sad bereavement.—*E. Renouf.*

St. Lawrence and Labrador District

ALL IN THE DAY'S JOB

The interpreter of the Hudson's Bay post of Manowan, James Moar by name, had the misfortune recently to cut his foot rather badly with an axe. When having it dressed, the post manager noticed an old ugly scar near the new one.

"How did you get the old one?" asked the post manager.

"Well, it was like this," returned the interpreter, as if what he had endured was all in the day's job. "Some years ago I had travelled about twenty-five miles from the village to set my traps. It began to grow dark, so I set up my tent and started in to cut some wood for my fire. Just as I finished enough kindling to make a blaze, my axe slipped and badly damaged my foot. I had no bandages, so I just tore off strips from my tent and bound up my foot. I waited all next day to let the blood congeal around the wound, then I made a pair of crutches, but, as I might have known beforehand, these were worse than useless in the deep snow. I couldn't stay there and die of starvation. There wasn't any hope of anybody passing that way, so I started to crawl, helping myself along with my snowshoes. To try to crawl for twenty-five miles is a mean kind of a job. For three and a half days I kept at it, through the bush and across several lakes, till I found myself too weak to go any farther. I lay down in the snow for a long time; how long, I don't remember. But at last I saw a band of Indians passing on the opposite side of a lake. I was able to attract their attention, and very quickly they came over, helped me and hauled me home to bed, where I remained for a few days afterwards."—*J. V. Turley, Manowan Post.*

York Factory

SEAPLANE AT YORK FACTORY

On September 13th, 1925, the first flying machine arrived and landed in the Hayes river opposite the post. The officers in command of the plane were Flying Officer L. R. Charron, Flying Officer J. R. Cairns, Corporal A. J. Milne, and R. D. Davidson, of the hydrographic survey. The Indians were astonished to see this great bird hover over the post and then dive into the river. We were all pleased to have the seaplane officers with us for a few days, and they one and all agreed that York Factory would make an ideal place for a working base. The plane left on September 15th. She rose gracefully from the water and, after circling for altitude, disappeared, going south.

The weather here since the winter commenced has on the whole been rather mild, only one day the thermometer being so low as 32 below. February and March however may bring about a change. If so, we hope it will bring the foxes with it.

A very pleasant Christmas was spent by all at York Factory. Santa Claus failed to arrive, due we think to too many bends in our stovepipes.

Scotsmen being part of the equipment at York Factory, Hogmanay night was celebrated with great enthusiasm. It was "a braw, bricht munelicht nicht," and at midnight dog teams could be seen flying around the post to the accompaniment of foghorns, drums, tin cans and various other musical instruments. Soon after midnight the house of our district manager, C. Harding, was visited, where the hospitality of his good lady and himself was taken full advantage of.

On New Year's day, the Indians visited the H.B.C. staff in the mess room where greetings were exchanged and general hand-shaking took place. Being a bright sunny day, dog races were held on the river and good sport was had. In the evening a dance held in the gaily decorated mess room was a great success. New Year's day was thoroughly enjoyed by all at York.

A very sad occurrence took place here on 7th January, resulting in the death of John Gray, a native of York Factory. While out hunting forty miles from the post, he was accidentally shot by his companion. Deceased was only 24 years of age and very popular at York, especially with the staff of the H.B.C. Much sympathy is felt for his wife and family, also for his aged father, William Gray.

Archdeacon Farries has left on a three-weeks trip to Split Lake.—*E. W. Hampton.*

Old-Time H.B.C. Group

Fort Garry Gateway, September, 1891

Top Row—T. Clouston, N. D. office; A. C. L. Fox, Winnipeg; J. Houston, Cumberland; A. W. Colpman, Rat Portage; J. Scott, Winnipeg.

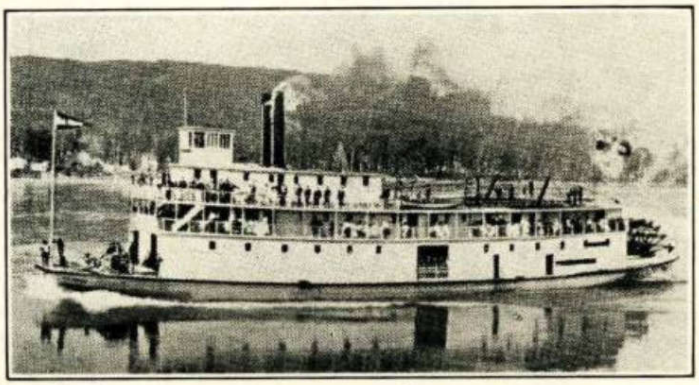
Middle Row—G. Hislop, Edmonton; A. C. Mackay, Deloraine; T. Ross, Winnipeg; R. Spark, Winnipeg; J. B. Parker, Battleford; J. B. Hall, Winnipeg; E. D. Adams, N.D. office; W. Galbraith, Prince Albert; F. Leggo, Winnipeg; I. Johnston, Winnipeg; W. Gardner, Macleod.

Front Row—M. S. Beeston, Shoal Lake; A. Congdon, Winnipeg; E. de Pencier, Manitou; J. E. Thompson, Winnipeg; C. E. Paulin, Qu'Appelle; A. Kenning, Winnipeg; J. White, Winnipeg.

We are indebted to J. White, of Winnipeg Depot, for this photograph.

A Summer Trip to the Arctic

Through Canada's Northwestern Waterways



S.S. D. A. Thomas

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S.S. D. A. Thomas

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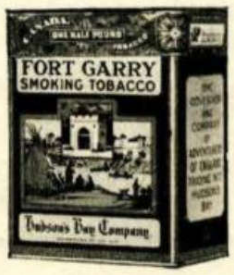

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